

World Bank tackles trade and aid deadlock

gh-level commission to help to break "the impasse" in international economic negotiations was proposed yesterday by Mr McNamara, President of the World Bank.

Mr McNamara suggested that it could be headed by Herr Brandt, the former West German Chancellor. Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, welcomed Mr McNamara's suggestion.

Herr Brandt ready to head commission

Frank Vogel, Economics Correspondent, London, Jan 14

Robert McNamara, President of the World Bank, called for the establishment of a level commission, headed by Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, to "ease the international community out of the current impasse" that has developed in international economic negotiations.

Brandt issued a statement today saying he was "in a position to accept" such a commission. At the United Nations, the Secretary-General, Waldheim, strongly welcomed McNamara's suggestion. Dr Kissinger, the United States Secretary of State, has also welcomed the World Bank President's suggestion.

McNamara noted in a statement that there was a need for new international agreements on such issues as debt relief, commodity prices, and international trade and development. He pointed out that "such an understanding is unlikely to come in the current international climate of contentious present circumstances".

McNamara's proposals, according to Mr Vogel, might be improved at a high-level, but deliberately not a commission, were to be taken by both developed and developing nations.

He said such a commission would be headed by someone like Brandt and he has already had talks with the German leader on the subject.

The commission would be made up of people of high international stature, capable of dealing with such diverse issues as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Current negotiations should proceed with a new sense of urgency.

Home loans rate is maintained at 12 1/4 pc

By Margaret Stone

After a month of indecision the Building Societies Association has committed itself to retention of the mortgage rate of 12 1/4 per cent and the investment interest rate of 7.8 per cent.

The decision was taken at yesterday's meeting of the council of the association. Building society leaders, many of whom supported the idea of a 13 per cent mortgage rate last month, were influenced by a gentle easing of interest rates generally and by results that are better than expected for December.

After the very low level of net receipts of £23m in November, it seemed that the societies might experience a net outflow of funds last month. But after Christmas shopping and buying in advance of December's economic measures, the situation improved towards the end of the month.

Net receipts for December totalled £27m and during the month the societies lent £479m to home buyers. The amount promised to prospective purchasers, at £37m, was the lowest commitment figure for the year, but as Mr Norman Gellings, secretary-general of the association, pointed out: "This hardly represents a famine".

January is traditionally a very good month for building society investment. Most societies pay out interest this month and have many investors who reinvest it almost immediately. Early mortgage applications indicate that net receipts could rise to about £100m.

Further improvement will be looked for later in the year but it seems unlikely that the societies will be able to maintain their lending at the rate of £5,000m, the total they managed to achieve last year. They are expected to aim at up to £5,000m.

Welcoming the decision to peg the mortgage rate at the current level, Mr Anthony Cavanagh, Federation secretary, expressed yesterday that the total lending by societies this year will be considerably lower than last year.

Italian archaeologists unveil high culture of unknown third millennium BC state

Clay tablets will revolutionize earliest history of mankind

From Patricia Clough, Rome, Jan 14

The immense importance of the texts to ascertain the contents but as yet only a small proportion have been studied thoroughly.

Professor Paolo Matthiae, the head of the team, described the find as "staggering". The contents of the archive would revolutionize knowledge of the Middle East during that period. Hitherto it was assumed that the main centres of power and culture in the Middle East during the third millennium were Mesopotamia and Egypt and that Syria was a peripheral area of little importance. It was also generally supposed that the overall picture would change little with further excavations.

The find, Professor Matthiae says, is "like a kind of carthage which has put very many things in doubt".

In the first place it has shown the existence of a state in about 2400 BC which was a political, economic and military power that rivaled Mesopotamia. Above all it was a great commercial empire which did business over a large area of the Middle East from Anatolia to Palestine and from western Iran to the sea.

Like the other two empires it had a written language—a cuneiform script—and a highly developed culture.

The second important aspect of the discovery is the previously unknown language in which many of the tablets were written. Now called Eblaite, it is one of the Semitic family of languages, similar to Phoenician and Hebrew. It is the oldest written Semitic language, as texts in the other languages appear only 1,300 years later.

The language is being deciphered without too great difficulty by comparing it to other Semitic languages. The study is being greatly helped by the presence of bilingual text and actual dictionaries from Eblaite into Sumerian, the language of southern Mesopotamia, and vice versa. These dictionaries in turn will help scholars to translate hitherto incomprehensible elements in Sumerian.

Professor Matthiae dismisses as "silly" recurrent press reports that the archives in some way support parts of the Old Testament.

It is true, he says, that Professor Perrotti has deciphered the names of two cities which appear similar to those of Sodom and Gomorrah. This may mean that the Jewish story about their wickedness and destruction may refer to real cities which actually existed.

But it is unscientific, he says, to suggest that, just because the language was similar to Hebrew, the people of Ebla may have been the ancestors of the Jews. The Jews appeared in the Middle East a thousand years later and much could be learned from the archives.

Continued on page 3, col 6

Queen pays tribute to Lord Avon as man of courage and integrity

By Philip Howard

Lord Avon, the former Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden and the last of the old school of British diplomats, died in his sleep yesterday at the age of 79.

He was flown back from Florida by the RAF earlier this year, on the twentieth anniversary of the day that he resigned as Prime Minister at the height of the Suez crisis, when his health began to deteriorate because of progressive liver failure. He wanted to die in England, and came home to his country house at Alvediston, near Salisbury.

Anthony Eden was the youngest Foreign Secretary of this century, and served in the office for 14 years. He made his glittering reputation before the war as the champion of the League of Nations, the staunch opponent of Fascism, and the man who resigned from the National Government in 1938 in protest against the policy of appeasement.

He was luck apparent to Sir Winston Churchill for too long, and his career as Prime Minister from April, 1955, to January, 1957, ended in the controversy and waterbed of Suez.

The Queen sent a message of sympathy from Sandringham to Lady Avon, who was with him when he died. It included the passage: "As a gallant soldier in the First World War and as a statesman in the Second and in many years of peace, he gave outstanding service to his country. He will be remembered as a gallant soldier, an outstanding diplomat, and a great patriot."

Lord Butler of Safeway, one of his oldest parliamentary colleagues, said: "He was the most gallant public man who ever served, starting with his war record and continuing to his determination in standing up for the Suez Canal as an international waterway and resisting its takeover by Nasser."

Lord Selwyn-Lloyd, his Foreign Secretary, said: "His outstanding qualities were his courage and perception. He was a brilliant negotiator, but he also knew a great deal about the feelings of ordinary people on everyday matters, and he had the courage to take difficult decisions."

Lord Home of the Hirsel, Commonwealth Relations Secretary in the Eden Government and another former Prime Minister, paid tribute to Lord Avon as a rare politician who believed in principles.

Chief constables fear breakdown in law and order over cash cuts

By Clive Borrell

Britain's chief police officers have warned Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, that he faces a breakdown in law and order this year unless the police receive pay rises.

Cutbacks in public spending decided by the Government have been so stringent, chief constables representing forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, say, that "it will be very difficult, if not impossible" for the police fully to discharge their duties.

The views of the chief constables arrived on Mr Rees's desk yesterday after a long and at times alarming meeting at Scotland Yard.

One chief constable said last night: "Without the money we need to maintain the law and order, we are faced with a decision to cut back on local government spending which is tantamount to a criminal's charter. People will be able to help themselves and our manpower will be so weak on the ground that we shall not be able to stop them."

Recruiting and the training of cadets has come almost to a standstill in some areas where police forces are hundreds, and in a few cases thousands, below their establishments. Some cadet centres have had to be closed in an attempt to prune budgets.

Mr Peter Marlow, Chief Constable of Surrey, said: "Civilian staff have had to be replaced by police officers to do office work. This reduction in expenditure will seriously affect the maintenance of law and order."

In Hampshire Sir Douglas Osmond, the service constable, said last night: "We are 400 men short, but to save money we have had to close the cadet training centre."

In Cambridgeshire the police budget has been trimmed by £700,000, and 48 out of 53 traffic wardens may lose their jobs.

Two features of future expenditure the police chiefs feel that Government has overlooked are pensions, which increase annually, as does the number of recipients, and the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Lord Widgery to hear Stonehouse plea

John Stonehouse, the former MP, who is serving a seven-year jail sentence for fraud, theft and deception, will seek leave in the Court of Appeal on January 24 to appeal against his conviction and sentence.

The hearing, expected to last two days, will be before Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, and two other judges. Mr Stonehouse will not appear.

Mr Stonehouse, now serving his sentence at Brixton Prison, Suffolk, will be represented by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC.

His secretary, Mrs Sheila Buckley, aged 30, was given a two-year suspended jail sentence after her conviction on theft charges.

Town Hall overtime ban from April 1

By Christopher Thomas

A national overtime ban is to be imposed from April 1 by the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) in protest at the Government's economic strategy and the continued curb on public spending.

The decision, taken at a special one-day conference of the union in London yesterday, was to define a recommendation by the union's executive.

The conference was the first big test of rank-and-file trade union opinion over the handling of the economy and the possibility of some form of policy next year. The outcome leaves no doubt that the social contract is now under intense pressure.

The 2,000 delegates rejected a call for a straight strike, but any continuation of the social contract on a card vote by 334,000 to 276,000, a surprisingly narrow margin.

Another big decision, also in defiance of the executive, was to refuse to cooperate with any development of the local government service arising from a central government proposal to cut local government expenditure, unless the money to do it is forthcoming.

The likely effect of the overtime ban is not clear, but according to Mr Geoffrey Drain, NALGO general secretary, it will bring some service to a halt. He said: "There will be no danger to life and limb." The ban was initially rejected on a hand vote by 510 to 498, but carried 249,000 to 198,000.

The mood of the conference came as a surprise to the union's executive, who opposed all amendments to their own resolution, which called for alternative economic policies in line with the Trócaire approach.

The conference rejected by a substantial majority, a call for a national strike from March 1, but again the vote in favour was an indication of the extent of militant feeling.

er Finch ically ill

Angela, Jan 14.—Peter the Australian-born was said to be in a very poor condition in hospital after apparently suffering an attack at a Beverly hotel.

Finch, aged 50, is said to be under consideration for an nomination for his role in the film, one of his most films.—Reuters and AP.

EEC ready to act against Britain over increase in taxes levied on wine

From Alan Wood, Luxembourg, Jan 14

Mr Richard Burke, of Ireland, the European Commissioner for fiscal policy and protection of consumer interests, indicated in a reply to a question at the European Parliament late last night that the Commission was taking action against Britain because of increased tax being levied on wine. The action is being taken under article 169 of the Treaty of Rome.

It is maintained that the British taxes levied on wine contravene article 95 which lays down that no member state may impose, directly or indirectly, on the products of

other member states any internal taxation of any kind in excess of that imposed directly or indirectly on similar domestic products.

The "similar domestic product" cited is beer. It is possible that Britain might argue whether beer and wine are similar.

Under the procedure in the treaty, the commission will be writing to the British Government pointing out that Britain is breaking the rules. The Treasury will consider the matter and after the British Government has replied to the Commission, the latter will review the situation.

If the Commission is still dissatisfied, there can be a second exchange of letters and after that the Commission, if it so decides, may inform Britain that it proposes to take it to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg for a ruling.

In those circumstances, the case can drag on. The view here is that there is no desire to come into conflict with Britain over this issue but rules are rules. The main problem facing wine growers is the declining demand in France and Italy.

There may be some wry smiles in Britain by those who consider there is a touch of Irish in the Commission even thinking that a Labour Government was protecting the brewers when the present level of tax on wine was fixed.

European MPs seek quick action on terrorism

From Our Parliamentary Staff, Luxembourg, Jan 14

The European Parliament, in a rare mood of unanimity, carried a resolution today calling on all states and national parliaments of the Community to ratify immediately the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

The convention, drawn up last autumn by the Council of Europe, will be signed on January 24. Sir Peter Kirk, leader of the Conservative group at the European Parliament, moving the resolution on behalf of all six political groups, understood that many governments had already indicated their intention to sign on that day and ensure ratification as early as possible.

Sir Peter explained that under the convention it would not be open to terrorists to plead that they could not be extradited from one member state to another because their action was political.

He said that, of today's proceedings, in what has been generally regarded as British week, was occupied by a series of resolutions and reports on environmental and consumer protection matters.

Britain's second new commissioner, Mr Christopher Tugendhat, disclosed during a discussion on packing and labelling, that he had bought his wife a pocket calculator to help her adjust to the new quantities and measurements.

Parliamentary report, page 4
Abu Daoud case, page 3

Trade unions press on with plans for Africa boycott

Trade unions pressed on yesterday with plans for a trade and communications boycott on South Africa next week as a strong criticism from industry and a successful action in the High Court, which claims to represent 60,000 country's 428,000 post office employees, although other unions said they do not act.

of Rights move

Conservative leadership is supporting a Bill of Rights into the House of Commons. It sees that as a move towards a Bill for Britain as a whole, our Political Staff writes. Mr as Edwards, the Tory spokesman on the has attacked "hysteria" among the of a Welsh assembly.

Suicides at 'rat-pit' hospital, doctor says

Two patients had committed suicide recently because of the "rat-pit" conditions at Hackney Hospital, a consultant psychiatrist said.

Dr Bartholomew's 500 ancillary workers have ended a strike over a pay dispute. Their representatives will meet the management next week to discuss the workers' grievances, which centre on a new rota system.

Import curbs call

Sir Ronald McIntosh, director-general of the National Economic Development Office, said that he would be in favour of import restrictions to protect some British industries. He cited the electronics sector as an example, when addressing a conference on industrial strategy Page 19

Greig rescues England

England recovered from a bad start to score 171 for five at the end of the first day's play in the third Test match against India at Madras. Greig led the rescue in a fourth wicket partnership of 109 with Brearley. John Woodcock, page 7

Right-wing trick in Spain suspected

A senior Spanish official says he thinks the kidnappers of Señor Antonio María de Oriol, King's adviser, are right-wing extremists masquerading as anti-fascists. The group claiming to hold him has demanded the release of 15 alleged terrorists. The official says the effect of this is to impede Government amnesty plans. Page 3

Record stock issue

The issue of a record £125m long-dated "top" stock signals the Government's intention to maintain a sedate pace in reducing interest rates. The Bank of England also indicated that the minimum lending rate would remain unchanged at 14 per cent for the time being. Page 19

RUC reservist killed: An off-duty reserve policeman was killed in Ulster by a booby-trap device in his car. Page 2

Moscow: Mr Brezhnev says the future of détente is endangered by a growing arms race. Page 4

Nicosia: Arab extremists start taking a new interest in potential of Cyprus. Page 4

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George Hurnhouse says the spies living in London must be rooted out. Edmund Stevens on Moscow's newest grand hotel. John Young on ravaged Oxford. John Woodcock goes racing in India. Page 15

Letters: On censorship and union action, from Mr K. P. Smith, and others; on women and public morality, from Miss Patricia Bishop, and others.

Leading articles: Freedom of the press; Lord Avon. Arts, page 11. Sheridan Morley talks to Sir John Mills, who is to star in the London revival of Rattigan's *Separate Tables*; Michael Church enthuses about the ITV serial *Another Bouquet*.

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Rugby Union: Peter West previews Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham; Peter Walker expects easy victory for Wales against Ireland at Cardiff; Football: Weather disrupts programmes in Scotland and England; Racing: Ascot prospects. Page 16

Mr A. N. Gillies: Brigadier Sir James Gault. Business News, pages 18-23
Stock markets: Equities were subdued and the FT Index closed 0.5 up at 363.9. Gilt were dominated by the new long "tap" stock. Personal investment and finance. Unit trusts: Margaret Sumner on what the fund managers favour; the tax problems of divorce and separation explained by Versi D. Palma; Christopher Wilkins examines the availability of credit.

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HOME NEWS

3 hurt in houses damaged by gas blast

From Ronald Kay
Leeds

A gas explosion in a dispute arose yesterday in a row of houses in Leeds, Yorkshire, which has been described as the worst in the city since the war. The explosion, which occurred at about 11.15 a.m., destroyed three houses and damaged several others. Three people were injured, and a fire broke out in the street.

The explosion occurred in a row of houses in the city centre, near the railway station. The houses were owned by a local authority and were in the process of being demolished. The explosion was caused by a gas leak from a pipe which had been damaged during the demolition work.

The fire which broke out in the street was quickly extinguished by the fire brigade. The injured people were taken to hospital, but none of them is expected to be seriously hurt. The local authority has ordered the demolition work to be stopped until the cause of the explosion has been investigated.

The local authority has also ordered the houses to be vacated until the cause of the explosion has been investigated. The houses were occupied by about 20 people. The local authority has also ordered the demolition work to be stopped until the cause of the explosion has been investigated.

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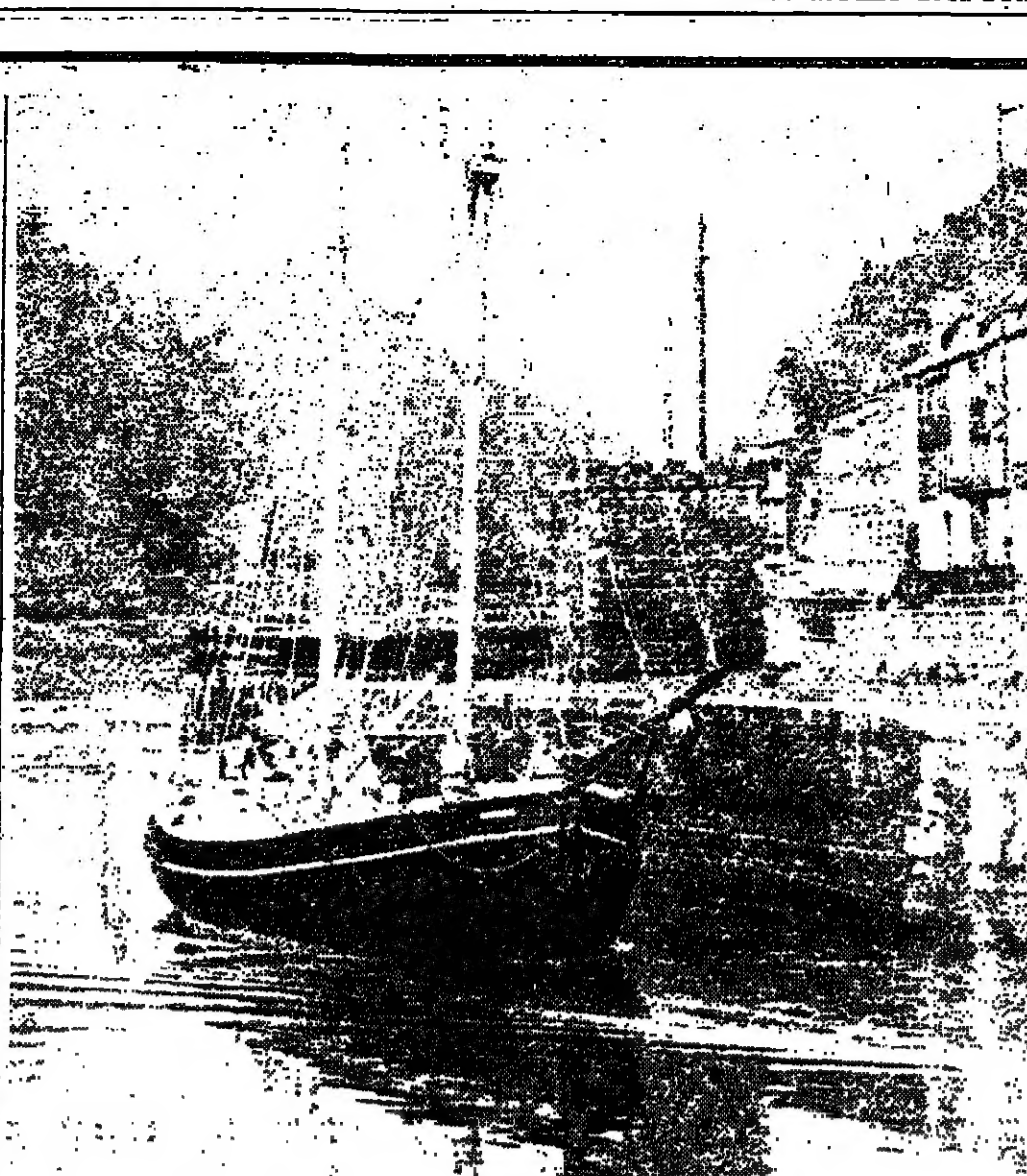
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The Patriot, a 75-year-old sailing vessel, passing through the Avon Gorge to Bristol Docks, where she is to take part in a television film.

Conditions at hospital blamed for suicides

Conditions at the psychiatric unit at Hackney Hospital, east London, are so bad that two patients have committed suicide in the past six months, Dr John Reed, a consultant psychiatrist, said yesterday.

One was a severely disturbed man who required more security for his treatment than could be provided at the hospital. "He ended up in prison, where he committed suicide," Dr Reed said.

The other needed a psychiatric bed but one could not be found. "While we had the usual discussions on how on earth we could find a bed for him he ran off and committed suicide," Dr Reed added.

In 1973, Dr Reed added, the Hospital Advisory Service said the facilities at Hackney were the worst they had ever seen. "Nothing really has significantly changed since then," he said.

Some patients had discharged themselves because of the "raucous" conditions. "One sex's dormitory is both sexes' dining room, television room, and general recreation area," he added.

Half the psychiatric day hospital within Hackney Hospital was without heating, and elderly demented patients had to share wards with the young disturbed mentally ill.

Dr Reed, chairman of the division of psychiatry for City and Hackney Health District, said: "The conditions here are conditions in which no patient should be asked to be treated and in which no staff should be asked to try to treat patients."

The doctors had no quarrel with the district administrators, who agreed that conditions were appalling, he said. Plans to improve the facilities had been put back since 1974, and there seemed no likelihood of their being carried out because of the redistribution of health service spending.

Mr James Bewsher, of the National Union of Public Employees, said the union was demanding £275,000 from ICI with which to finance the work. "The management now accept that they must negotiate in the normal way," he said.

Mr Slater, aged 48, faces charges of conspiracy to commit a criminal breach of trust, conspiracy to defraud, and conspiracy to mislead information. Mr Slater, aged 42, faces six similar charges and 11 others.

The hearing continues on Monday.

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Salmon war erupts over Scots border

A year-long salmon war in the Solway Firth is turning into an English-Scottish border dispute, with claims of English encroachment from the north and Scottish meanness from the south.

Until last year fishermen from both sides of the border happily cast their nets into the Solway Firth, a narrow strait between the north and south of the river. But then the river changed its course, and the two sides began to quarrel.

The water authority is, in turn, disputing the right of Scottish fishermen to fish in their traditional waters unless licensed by them. A water authority official said: "It looks as though a truce will continue until the matter is resolved in law."

Mr John Whitecross, deputy chief executive of Annandale and Eskdale District Council, said English fishermen could not be granted licences by them. "The territorial dispute is even if the English fish in the river," he said.

The charter granted the former Burgh of Annan various rights and privileges and is for the benefit of the people living within the Annan township area," he said. "When the central channel of the Eden and Esk rivers moved, it came completely inside the fixed charter area. Before it had been part in and part out and fishermen with licences from both authorities were fishing their own halves."

The council is meanwhile seeking an injunction in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, to prohibit the water authority from "purporting to license people" to fish within the disputed area.

Winding engineers who halted 22 pits in the Yorkshire coalfield on Wednesday have agreed to call off further planned one-day strikes pending renewed negotiations on early retirement.

Beer price rise

The Allied Breweries group at Warrington, Cheshire, is to raise the price of its draught beers by a penny a pint on Monday when the extra penny imposed in the mini-Budget also comes into effect.

Beer price rise

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Beer price rise

WEST EUROPE

French Prime Minister defends handling of Abu Daoud case and dismisses German protests

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 14

The French Government has gone over to the offensive in the controversy over the release of Mr Youssef Raji Ben Hanna, known as Abu Daoud, Minister in a long interview with Agence France-Presse, referring euphemistically to "the hesitations" of the West German Government.

Although there is no desire in Paris to feed the flames of controversy, the unofficial view is that the German protests are distinctly disingenuous, and that the Federal Government began to voice its indignation over the Palestinian leader's release when it was quite certain that he was out of reach.

Mr Barre insists that the true identity of Mr Youssef Raji Ben Hanna was not known to the French consulate in Beirut or to the authorities in Paris when the visa for his visit to France was issued.

He makes it clear that Mr Abu Daoud was detained for questioning in compliance with a request from the West German authorities. The West German Minister of the Interior had personally telephoned his French counterpart, M Michel Poniatowski, to ensure that the Palestinian was kept in custody until the extradition request had been forwarded through diplomatic channels.

Under the Franco-German extradition agreement of 1951, the arrest warrant issued by the Munich judge had to be accompanied almost simultaneously by confirmation through diplomatic channels. This confirmation was never received in Paris.

The question on which the Court of Appeal had to give a ruling was not his extradition, but his continued detention.

The Prime Minister says he himself was told of the West German request by the Minister of the Interior three hours after Mr Abu Daoud had been detained. "We measured the political and diplomatic implications of such a detention, but we both agreed that it was necessary to follow up the German request."

The decision of the Court of Appeal was based on the fact that the demand for the arrest (as opposed to the detention for questioning), the first stage in an extradition procedure, was a political one, and had therefore to be confirmed through diplomatic channels. As no confirmation had been received three days after the Palestinian leader was detained, it felt there were no grounds for prolonging it.

He is not thinking in terms of separatism for Corsica. He had the firm conviction, he said, that the Corsican crisis of identity could not be settled by nationalistic passions.

His release was welcomed by the Corsican political representatives, even those whose opinions were at variance with those of Mr Simeoni. No restrictions are placed on his place of residence so he will be able to return to Corsica, and resume his political activity.

In a statement to the French news agency, Dr Simeoni said he had long enjoyed in French prisons had in no way undermined his determination to pursue the struggle to give his country and the Corsican people the means of survival and fulfilment.

By letting him out of prison, the Government took a calculated risk. But Dr Simeoni has chosen to adopt a distinctly moderate attitude. In his statement, he also made it clear the fact that the Government

has now decided to free him, is generally taken as a gesture of appeasement to the Corsican nationalist movement.

Dr Edmond Simeoni, the most prominent of the Corsican nationalist leaders, was released conditionally from the St Pierre prison. He has served less than half of a prison sentence of five years, two of them suspended, for his part in the shooting incident in Algiers in August 1975. When a wine cellar invaded by unknown persons was set on fire, two people were killed, and two others were injured.

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French Prime Minister defends handling of Abu Daoud case and dismisses German protests

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 14

The French Government has gone over to the offensive in the controversy over the release of Mr Youssef Raji Ben Hanna, known as Abu Daoud, Minister in a long interview with Agence France-Presse, referring euphemistically to "the hesitations" of the West German Government.

Although there is no desire in Paris to feed the flames of controversy, the unofficial view is that the German protests are distinctly disingenuous, and that the Federal Government began to voice its indignation over the Palestinian leader's release when it was quite certain that he was out of reach.

Mr Barre insists that the true identity of Mr Youssef Raji Ben Hanna was not known to the French consulate in Beirut or to the authorities in Paris when the visa for his visit to France was issued.

He makes it clear that Mr Abu Daoud was detained for questioning in compliance with a request from the West German authorities. The West German Minister of the Interior had personally telephoned his French counterpart, M Michel Poniatowski, to ensure that the Palestinian was kept in custody until the extradition request had been forwarded through diplomatic channels.

Under the Franco-German extradition agreement of 1951, the arrest warrant issued by the Munich judge had to be accompanied almost simultaneously by confirmation through diplomatic channels. This confirmation was never received in Paris.

The question on which the Court of Appeal had to give a ruling was not his extradition, but his continued detention.

The Prime Minister says he himself was told of the West German request by the Minister of the Interior three hours after Mr Abu Daoud had been detained. "We measured the political and diplomatic implications of such a detention, but we both agreed that it was necessary to follow up the German request."

The decision of the Court of Appeal was based on the fact that the demand for the arrest (as opposed to the detention for questioning), the first stage in an extradition procedure, was a political one, and had therefore to be confirmed through diplomatic channels. As no confirmation had been received three days after the Palestinian leader was detained, it felt there were no grounds for prolonging it.

He is not thinking in terms of separatism for Corsica. He had the firm conviction, he said, that the Corsican crisis of identity could not be settled by nationalistic passions.

His release was welcomed by the Corsican political representatives, even those whose opinions were at variance with those of Mr Simeoni. No restrictions are placed on his place of residence so he will be able to return to Corsica, and resume his political activity.

In a statement to the French news agency, Dr Simeoni said he had long enjoyed in French prisons had in no way undermined his determination to pursue the struggle to give his country and the Corsican people the means of survival and fulfilment.

By letting him out of prison, the Government took a calculated risk. But Dr Simeoni has chosen to adopt a distinctly moderate attitude. In his statement, he also made it clear the fact that the Government

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From Robert Fisk
Miami, Jan 14

The Cyprus Government emphasizes now that the presence of the Palestinians in Nicosia and the size of the official Palestinian office in the city is strictly controlled. But the three permanent staff members and their families have recently, if temporarily, been supplemented by a further four officials and they have been decorating a new office in a building which they rent a few hundred yards from their Nicosia headquarters.

With its free press and easy access just 150 miles from Beirut it must seem an enticing base for the Palestinian publicity men whose voice has been so suddenly and efficiently silenced in Lebanon.

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Jan 14

**Peace this year
call by
Arab leaders**

on next month. Mr Danny Mosolito, the committee chairman, said after the meeting that all agreed that Israel should offer to negotiate a peace leading to defensible borders and involving territorial compromise on all three fronts."

Aswan, Egypt, Jan 1
dent Sadat of Egypt

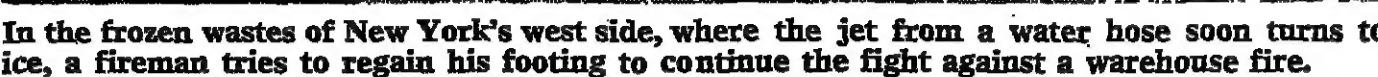
Asked whether he thought Israel would agree to the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip, Mr Fahmi replied: "The question is how to convince the Israelis. If they want to live in peace they must accept, otherwise we will ask for more."—Reuters.

The resolution also asked the executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to coordinate activities leading to the establishment of the centre, its functioning and its coordination with present social training and research institutes in Africa. Egypt has proposed that the centre, to cost about £3m, should be established in Maruit, near Alexandria.

Moscow, Jan 14.—Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader,

The arms race was "a waste of spiritual and material resources" which were needed to combat hunger, disease, illi-

The message was read to the forum by Mr. Boris Ponomarev,



From Nicholas Ashford

But what kind of recognition will this be? Will it, as some

group of "independent" non-racial unions. They maintain that as a result of the Government's job reservation policies black and white workers have conflicting interests. In these circumstances "parallelism" is

It remains to be seen how far the activities of "independent" unions will have been curbed by the recent bannings, although for the moment they are still very much in business.

From Peter Strafford
New York, Jan 14

Mr Isaac Seperu, the Tanzanian Deputy Foreign Minister, told the council that the time had come to take decisive

House of Commons

The neglected city (he said) breeds its own problems of vandalism, mugging, decay and unemployment, and perhaps worst of all, despair. Mr Robert Mellish (Southwark, Bermondsey, Lab) said that when

For one reason or another, people who would

homelessness. Mr Anthony Grant (Harrow, Central, C) said that if they were going to achieve a sensible and viable economic society in the cities there had got to be changes in the Office Development Permit and Industrial Development Control

urban areas. They must have a great deal of useful experience and knowledge acquired in the course of various projects prior to the Government to help them in the areas and to study communities.

Moscow, Jan 14.—Dr Andrei what
Nobel prize organs

ngers of arm

some 300 active dissidents in all.—Reuter.

ms race

In pay of CIA

By Our Diplomatic

Mr Chakoodza said there were about 7,000 Zimbabweans in Britain, of whom he believed about half no wsupported Mr Sithole.

One of them is Mrs Nicole Barrett, a friend who tried to commit suicide at the same time as he did last November. Mrs Barrett, however, is now

European Parliament
Luxembourg

ard as political, offences committed through terrorism. In other words it would not be open to terrorists to plead that they could not be extradited from one member state to another because their action was political. It was an important step forward on behalf of all the 18 states of the Council of Europe.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Office, Lab) said France's action in releasing Mr Abou Daoud had received almost universal condemnation.

be identified even after storage. The need to a transport of toxic and de wastes by inexperienced was pointed out. The Com was asked to require states to specify the loca which toxic and dangerou might be stored.

The resolution insisted case of emergency or gra ger the competent au must order that dangerou be transferred to and, if

tion in the press all over the world. Unless there was united action to combat international terrorism everyone would suffer. If we do not hang together (he said) we will hang separately at the hands of these international operators.

Mr Tugendhat said the Commission was still examining various options to adopt for asbestos. He was well aware of the problem and hoped to reach a conclusion soon as possible. Britain had been made aware recently of the

Aspen, Colorado, Jan 14.-
The judge in the Claudin

Longest manslaughter trial today gave the jury the option of convicting the former wife of Andy Williams, the singer, on a lesser charge.

Miss Longest could be sentenced to 10 years in prison if convicted of reckless manslaughter in the death of Vladimir "Spider" Sabich, her lover. The alternative charge of negligent homicide carries a maximum prison sentence of two years.—*Reuter.*

The American Civil Liberties Union said it would be filing suits in both federal and state courts in a final attempt to block the execution, which it fears will set a precedent for others under sentence of death.

If the execution is carried out, it will be the first in the United States since 1967. The National Council of Churches is to hold an all-night vigil outside the prison on Sunday.

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SPORT

Rugby Union

Scotland's part is to go out and try, England's to do or die

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent
England begin their rugby season against Scotland at Twickenham today (2.30) with a side who have been picked to man and, if need be, to die upon the barricades. With seven defeats in a row and four wooden spoons, two of them whitewashed, in the past five years, such a policy seems not unreasonable.

England are in a frame of mind to settle for victory even by the smallest margin and, though it may not please the purists, to believe it the hard way. The weather and conditions, which are less likely to appeal to Scotland, may leave neither side much option in this respect. England are not thinking about the frills and the furbelows until they have a win or two to build confidence anew.

Scotland, whose victory in Dublin last season was their first away from home since they beat England in 1971, do not need reminding that Twickenham is not their happiest hunting ground. Yet their highest aspirations seem always to have been dashed there at the season's end, and though they ought not to feel weighed down by the same pressure, against this, England have sided to win an opening match since Hilder contributed two remarkable dropped goals to their success over Ireland in 1970.

In some recent games England have roared out of their starting blocks and then had their confidence sapped by the surprising of needless points. Only time will show whether the latest side are less prone to excruciating errors but their formula for success from the set pieces looks fairly predictable. Young, a player of undoubted courage and character (who may have been capped some years too late) will ferret around the fringes with his Goshorich colleagues, Udney and Dixon, on hand, or the half-backs will kick, or, if Cooper should happen to let the ball out, the determined centres will drive in for second phase.

It makes sense for England to

put what pressure they can on Lawson, at scrum half, as well as on Irvine, though in the case of the Scottish full back they will need for obvious reasons, to kick accurately. Attacks close to the scrum may also seem sound tactics against a loose trio, two of whom are winning their first caps. Braver is reputed to be a first brand of a flanker, but there is a suspicion that MacDonald, an Oxford Blue, is less effective doing the defensive chores.

MacDonald, however, should contribute materially at the tail to what would be a distinct Scottish advantage at the loose. McIlrath at No 4 is arguably the most productive jumper in these islands, and the big Tones will be a useful ally at the front. Horton has a big task to do for England, and it may be crucial that his palms are accurately done.

But there can be little doubt that the absence of Brown, who is under suspension until early March, must weaken the Scottish effort at the scrum and in the scrumage, where Tones switches to left-hand lock because of McIlrath's preference for the right. Indeed, McIlrath's successor at loose head, Aiken, is a tight and doughty performer, but in both these areas England do not see why they cannot establish an edge.

In decent conditions the longer pass of Lawson, the ingenuity of McIlrath, the new captain, at centre, and the flair of Irvine would give Scotland some likely pluses behind the scrumage. England would hope to see the dashing and reliable Hignell freeing two good wings in Squires and Stemen, and Cooper exploiting any opening from loose ball at stand-off half.

Cooper has the capacity, and now the confidence, to go on his own. He has seen his chance and has the strength of mind to kick when he ought to do so, even if England's supporters are getting after him as they frequently seem to do. I dare say he may be kicking a good deal today, and I hope the crowd will give him the false centres will drive in for second phase.

Today's team at Twickenham

A. J. Riggall	15	Full back	A. R. Irvine	15	Full back
P. J. Squires	14	Right wing	W. C. Steele	14	Right wing
B. J. Cordes	13	Right centre	L. R. McGeechan	13	Right centre
C. F. Kent	12	Left centre	A. Hignell	12	Left centre
M. A. C. Slemen	11	Left wing	L. G. Dick	11	Left wing
M. J. Cooper	10	Stand-off	R. Wilson	10	Stand-off
M. Young	9	Scrum half	A. J. M. Lawson	9	Scrum half
R. Cowling	1	Prop	J. Aiken	1	Prop
P. J. Wheeler	2	Hooker	D. P. Madden	2	Hooker
F. E. Cotton	3	Prop	A. B. Carmichael	3	Prop
W. B. Beaumont	4	Lock	A. P. McKee	4	Lock
N. E. Horton	5	Lock	A. P. McKee	5	Lock
P. J. Dixon	6	Flanker	W. Lauder	6	Flanker
R. M. Udney	8	No 8	D. S. M. MacDonald	8	No 8
M. Riggall	7	Flanker	A. R. McGeechan	7	Flanker

Referee: M. Joseph (Wales)



Cold comfort for Ireland: after passing a fitness test, Gareth Edwards wins his 46th Welsh cap today.

Irish problems will be physical, not mental

By Peter Walker

Ireland have not won in Cardiff since 1967, when a single try by Alan Duggan inflicted a defeat which cost Wales their fourth successive championship. Indeed, Ireland have won in Wales only three times since the war, and with five new caps, four of them behind the scrum, the chance of beating Wales today seems slim.

The inclusion of a 31-year-old tight head prop, Feighery, has nothing to do with the physical problems set by the weather. He is more likely to be of the physical, rather than mental, variety and one is forced to believe that the subject matter of a few posters unknown to the consulting couch.

A visit by any Irish team produced a special sort of nervous tension among Welshmen, who through Wales swept to an on-paper, convincing victory in Dublin last season by 34 points to nine. The Irish pack have been working over for two-thirds of the game and it was only total fatigue which eventually broke their resistance.

We can expect a similar commitment from their new side, which has been formed by advancing years into Ireland's two players under 20, McKibbin and Bowen, in the three-quarter line. Nor do the Welsh team or their supporters discount the greatest Gibson, who at stand-off half, will be in a much better position to dictate Irish tactics than when marooned in the centre as last year's captain.

ever, some doubt must remain on his ability to last the full 80 minutes, and Brynmor Williams, his comradely deputy, may well take the field at some point today. The betting is heavily on Wales, but there remain doubts about the abilities of Squire at number eight, and Burgess at wing forward, neither of whom has international experience. Squire has the unenviable task of following Murray Davies, but if Wales win only 40 per cent of the ball they have enough high-powered artillery to make the scrumage to make victory as near a formality as can ever be in top class sport.

The pitch has been covered with 40 yards of polythene sheeting and the groundsmen at the national stadium, Bill Hardman, is confident that the match will be a dry one. The weather, however, has the effect of a waterproof blanket, so no frost has got into the ground at all.

Mr Hardman's main concern is to ensure that when the time comes to pull off this highly effective sheeting, the water runs into the surrounding drains and not on to the playing surface. Sixty volunteers will be drafted in this morning to help with the covering and if the water is more than an inch deep, pumps will be on hand to assist.

Wales: J. P. R. Williams (Bridgend); J. G. R. Davies (Cardiff); S. P. Fenwick (Bridgend); D. Burcher (Newport); J. Williams (Llanelli); P. Bennett (Llanelli); G. Shaw (Newport); R. Windsor (Pontypool); G. Price (Pontypool); A. J. Martin (Aberystwyth); T. P. Evans (Swansea); J. Squire (Newport); C. Burgess (Ebbw Vale).

Ireland: F. Wilson (Carmarthen); T. O. Grace (St Mary's); A. R. McKibbin (Inchmahon); J. A. McIlrath (Ballymena); D. J. Bowen (Cork Constitution); M. H. Gibson (NIFC); R. J. McGrath (Wanderers); P. A. Orr (Old Wesley); P. C. Whelan (Garryowen); T. A. Whelan (St Mary's); R. F. Harkin (Carmarthen); W. P. Duggan (Blackrock); S. M. O'Brien (Blackrock). Referee: N. R. Sanson (Scotland).

Football

Treat Best like rest, Fulham tell league

By Norman Fox

Fulham's reply to a letter from Alan Hardaker, secretary of the Football League, accusing them of arrogance over the case of George Best, was made public yesterday and it would seem that they want the league to treat Best like any other player and then give the league an assurance that the terms of his contract bind him to the club until the end of the season. It was Fulham's refusal to say that Best would stand the season's end that brought Mr Hardaker's accusation of arrogance.

In his letter Graham Horrop, Fulham's secretary, says: "Other players who have played in the United States were granted registration without delay or problems. It was only in the case of George Best that any difficulty arose and then only with the league, the FA having dealt with him on the same basis as any other player. I note that you make no complaint as to the terms of the contract Fulham has with George Best, which binds him to play for the club for the whole season. I hope this allays your 'suspicions', which incidentally were not mentioned at any time of the original registration."

Mr Horrop adds: "I note that, as suspected, although there are players who have played in the United States, this purported form of registration is unique to George Best. The club view is simply that George Best should be treated in the same way as other players in the same position. It is the intention of the management to impose some general restriction against all players who have played in the United States, then this should be subject to a new regulation after discussion with the FA, the clubs, the league and the players so that it may be applied to all."

Finally, Mr Horrop says he is sorry Mr Hardaker considers Fulham to be arrogant, but adds: "I must have thought it necessary to use this mode of expression. I should have thought that members of the Football League, my club, has the right to express its view."

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Hardaker looks back in anguish to the snows of yesteryear

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent
Snow in the north and a sudden thaw in the south will again disrupt the football programme. Matches were called off before midnight yesterday and Scotland has lost 14 games. Pitch inspections will probably bring further postponements this morning, adding to the League games put off last season.

The Football League are no longer close to extending this season, which should end on May 28. Also, they may have to ask the Football Association to release players from World Cup training in March when England play Luxembourg and Wales play Northern Ireland.

Yesterday Alan Hardaker, secretary of the Football League, said that there were only seven mid-week games left to accommodate the postponed matches. If more games have to be rearranged the League will have no alternative than to extend the season, as they did in 1953.

Newcastle United were the first to abandon hope of playing today. Heavy snow at St James' Park made it impossible for them to consider playing against Tottenham Hotspur today, and left them with a backlog of four games. Now facing several matches in quick succession, they must know that their chances of winning the championship, which looked good not long ago, are being reduced by circumstances beyond their control.

Leeds United's under-21 team, which has not saved their game with Nottingham City and Stoke City's ground was covered in snow last night causing the postponement of their match with Bristol City. It is the fourth home fixture which has been put off since December 4.

The leading four clubs in the first division hope to escape the damaging effects of the weather. Two of them, Aston Villa and Manchester City, in fourth and fifth place respectively, meet at Villa Park in the day's most attractive match and the leaders, Liverpool, expect their pitch to pass a morning inspection, thus allowing them to play West Bromwich Albion. Ipswich Town are also confident that their match with Everton will go ahead.

It is unclear whether Villa's pitch but they expect to play one of their most important games of the season. Manchester City have not been beaten in 12 matches but they cannot expect continued success at Villa Park, where the Birmingham club have lost only three successive away matches and although their best performance in the FA Cup last Saturday was a 2-1 win over Luton, they have not been as impressive as earlier in the season. A lot will depend on whether their record in the league can find a point away from Anfield. If this should happen, Ipswich could be in the strong position of being one point behind Liverpool with three matches in hand. Tostack

After new arrangements FA Cup matches with Crystal Palace, Liverpool have several injury problems which could allow West Bromwich to become only the second club this season to take a point away from Anfield. If this should happen, Ipswich could be in the strong position of being one point behind Liverpool with three matches in hand. Tostack

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A different ball game: Fairclough simulating the re with an outside snowball on the frozen wastes of An

Erverton, now without a manager because of Billy Ringham's dismissal, could hardly have a more uncomfortable ending to a week of upheaval. They go to Ipswich, who are appearing at home. The absence of Hunter in the Ipswich defence gives Everton a slightly better chance of moving on to a more successful course.

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McDermott are still available for Liverpool a back, Jones, will need test.

After beating Tottenham last week, Queen's Park are in a healthier position, as so after providing Long its most interesting foot season. Today they captain's third struggle West Ham United, at Loft where there will be a pitch on the morning. They have Radford ready to a hamstring strain but still await the recovery and Thomas.

The postponement of match at North County 1 allows Bolton Wanderers, vermouth Wanderers on them at the top of the division. Bolton have to the newly drained Orford provided it is passed. Wolves will be seeking to their total of 51 league points. Liverpool with a home win over Sheffield

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3 Cancelled order to get
aboard (9).

4 Rulers with pens, not pencils, we hear? (5).

An expatriate view of America

by J. P. Donleavy/Part 2

I had now spent some months in America following my return from an extended education in Europe. Comforted to a limited degree as I continued to write *The Ginger Man*, by Gaius Crist who was now rapidly wondering himself if he had been wise to decamp from London and join me. I revisited places of my childhood. Back to a white old mansion behind three great pines on route 22, south of Bedford, New York State, where as a child I had built my model aeroplanes in a back corner bedroom and, as the struts were drying, I used to drop stones on the snakes sunning below who had a nest in the corner of the building. I did I think have the excuse that an older local boy said that the snakes were copperheads. And the fear of such snakes, were like the fears intensifying something in one's bowels that was saying no to this land. Where my childhood friends were growing up, just as their parents did, to be trapped trembling and terrified in a nightmare.

But something in one's bowels was saying no to this land. Where my childhood friends were growing up, just as their parents did, to be trapped trembling and terrified in a nightmare. And temporarily to comfort myself with the reassurance that there had survived before me other writers on this massive continent, I paid a visit, on my return to New York, to Herman Melville's grave. It was in a cemetery I had known from childhood and in which during a school summer vacation I had cut grass. For an author often another author's life can feed him some romantic energy to keep tempered the tenacity of his own brooding, pessimistic spirit. But at the cemetery, and unlike Shakespeare's Stratford upon Avon, it seemed they had never heard of the man, and searched out the location from his file and helpfully marked it on a map. I could see as I reached the tree-shaded hill that not many, if any, previous feet had come to read some heartfelt words Melville may have written on the gravestone of a son who predeceased him. And on his own tomb was chiseled a feather pen. That his next of kin felt him worthy of. To tell a stranger that here lay a man in whose life there had been the written word.

And through that struggling parsimonious year, the idea that America wanted great writers and great books to heap rewards upon them, relentlessly vanished. I was told by my father that you couldn't get anywhere unless you got on a big TV programme like the Ed Sullivan show. And this suggestion was as crushing as it was true. And centuries away from my own fist shaking determination and resolve. Which was new that I had to escape or die. For even if I were to gladden on that box to the millions of eyes, I knew that my uncounted two or three cents worth in their ears would have them jumping in their cars and heading to the studio to stomp and strangle me. But then, I was getting what writers never really want to accept that they thrive on. Obscurity and rejection. And this is what America gives in abundance. However, with my energy spent, and my vengeance sworn with the words I wrote, I now knew that a lyric voice could not be heard unless heralded coast to coast by a throbbing parsimonious media campaign. And that that campaign, be it the home of my birth and where I grew up, was not about to give it to me. And if I stayed, they would, without even trying, or knowing, kill me.

I saved my dollars and dimes in driblets and drabs in desperate anxiety to buy a ticket to catch the Europe boat. Even popping nickels and pennies, by one into the first box atop my dresser. My first wife and child Philip had already flown. And in that white old house on a hill in the Bronx I pulled the shades down to the sill so that no one could draw a bead and shoot me before I got out. When I could muster the confidence, I walked in the cemetery of Hermon Melville. And met Gainer when Christ there in the wintry snow beneath the maueloups. He approved the set-

stories of his once selling cemetery plots and grave stones. And how in six months he had made a small fortune. His thought was because of his well brought up genteel demeanour. With both Christ and myself thinking that soon we would be becoming his first wife. But that someone got wind of Gainer's treachery. In this gay cut off community of Woodlawn in this most northern utermost Bronx. And threats suddenly got closer, deciding him to retreat to what he saw was absolute security rural New York. With sympathetic friends in Woodstock, up state New York.

And some days later a letter arrived written January 25, 1953, which began:

sing but mildly objected to the inconvenience. But at least he agreed that in there, sitting on the marble steps up to the sepulchres of the rich or of some rubber baron's tomb, we were in peace and safety. Albeit a hell of a lot poorer even though alive, than those entombed so splendidly dead. And now with the myth of America as the place you could return to, shattered.

Slowly, but even more surely, one's own life began to explode. On a drunken Greenwich Village spree with Gator Crist I had badly cut my wrist; putting my fist through a pane of glass as I missed something I was trying to hit. A kindly taxi driver drove me free of charge to St Vincent's Hospital. And I remembered a previous taxi trip in Europe when, with me in my death throes, the driver demanded to be paid. And my brother T. J. had planned his famous Knobby Wood County escape simultaneously on two pawns, waking me at 3 a.m., had nearly been stabbed to death by a pair of aggrieved hispanics downtown. Who after he had taken them to a party and his bossess had asked them all to leave, had been charged with the slight. Daily I went on a pilgrim's road to Bellevue Hospital, that massive pile of wards, corridors and morgue by a grey cold East River. Where my brother lay hourly hanging on by a thread of life. My voice was the only one that could come of my throat. And I joined Stephen Crist in his own ridiculous desperations, and now under constant siege from many aggrieved citizens of the United States, supplied the last distractions to go. And even he, the benevolent giant, more than I was, was also sorting his sights to recross at the first moment possible that deep blue green Atlantic. But I never thought for one second that the end of his life he would ever make it.

I sat holding my knife to the edges of my desk, lighting and fighting to keep aloft in a sea of despair. Knowing bleakly in my bones that my voice was not going to be heard in America. Where some strange man would come and chase us. And point a finger. Because we were traitors to the wonderful happy way of American life. And this spectre was everywhere. On the highways, on the busy city highways. Written on the faces in the subway, buses and bars. And Gainer for a few days hid out with me in the Bronx. Later saying that he was a traitor. A traitor to a peaceful and pleasant time he had ever spent. Even my father, weaker in his years and perhaps dimmer to his belief in the American dream, was a man who himself was beginning to die, voiced contentment. Where, over orange juice, pots of coffee and frying sausage in the kitchen, Gainer, my young brother T.J., cooing, lescing, regaled us on the wistful sunny mornings with stories of his once selling newspapers, plates and glass stones. And how in a moment he did not sell one. Which he thought was because of his weak brought up genteel and successful high school and myself thinking that soon we would be becoming his first customers. But someone got wind of Gainer's whereabouts. And he was driven out of Woodlawn in this most northern uttermost Bronx. And threats suddenly got closer, deciding him to retreat to the hills. To a sure and ultimately secure rural harmony with sympathetic friends in Woodstock, up state New York.

And some days later a letter arrived written January 25, 1953, which began:



**Above : Ireland,
with its
heather and
gorse and
all its sanitary
shortcomings.**



Left : New York, where the elderly move in terror through the streets hoping to get back to their lock enfettered doors alive with their groceries

"My dear Mike, My God!! This has been an unbelievable nightmare."

He related a story, which even I, who had always been of the opinion that he was more than mildly lacking in certain disciplines and unbecomingly of clearly impending pitfalls, thought he did not deserve. He had, in sandals in a snow storm, begun by hitchhiking from the George Washington Bridge. And got picked up by three successive and positively aggressive homosexuals. To whom he kindly explained that his life was already too complicated for him to do justice to. And would they please just let him out in the snow storm again. His R.O.P. inquired for all these things, the story of the blessed Oliver Plunkett, Ireland's martyred Bishop of Armagh of Cromwell's time, who now, as a result of such intercessions has been canonized by the Pope in Rome. Been made a saint. Gaijin had, among other unfortunate things, been at the wheel of a borrowed car on an empty road while rescuing a lost lesbian. And forgetting to turn the car off when he got out the Irish English side. A marvelous custom those two races retain in common. And

Shortly there came, with the first other car to approach in the middle of a continuing blizzard at 3 am, a head-on collision.

Without a driving licence Gainer had been arrested and a good trial at am, before a pyramidal Justice of the Peace in that gentleman's cellar. He was humanely only fined but having no money, the reluctant judge was compelled to commit him to Kingston Jail. His knees as a result of the accident were swollen up like footballs. Late the next day, his hostess with whom he was staying, Mrs. G. G. G., returned with her where they both decided they needed a good stiff drink. Gainer sat in his sofa chair with the bottle of whisky in his hands, and crossed the sitting-room floor to get some ice. Halfway there she disappeared from sight. For the first time in his kindly and humanly life although he did however reserve momentary for administering violent instant justice, he did not instantly leap to aid a female surely gone somewhere in distraction. He waited a moment in sight. But instead Gainer unknocked the whisky bottle and lifted it to his lips. And in one long Dublin gargle swigged down the entire contents. And thought for a moment, and then blessed himself with the sign of the cross and said the

When hobbling to investigation, as noble chap he always ultimately, with ladies, he found himself staring down into a black chille abyss. His hostess had fallen through a trap door under a rug on the floor and plunged fifteen feet down into a cellar where she badly sprained one and broke her other ankle. And when Governor had a reflective moment to express wariness again, they came to my ears from his very heart.

"Mike, pray God I may escape this bloody pñre before further disaster overtakes me. I must get out of here before I am shipped up in an asylum for the insane."

And so on a cold 3 o'clock afternoon in February some twenty-five years ago, hysterical and desperate, I stood on a red tint across Hoboken, I stood on the stern of a ship and I looked out for my life. The pink lights glancing on the thousands of stacked-up skyscraper windows of Manhattan Island. The Hudson grey, dark and cold. The cold water of the bay on the back of the good ship Franconia and on one of that vessel's very last journeys. Leaving this land that was in my mind the last of my life, conquering the entire way.

As well as me. They were serving beef tea in the garden on long tables. The skipper on his bridge. Lines being cast and tugboats waiting to nudge the vessel westward. And then I heard Crist. Racing and pounding down the pier. With his paper bag, and a wicker basket full of good food and a chianti. He was shouting as they drew up the gangway and he jumped the last couple of feet. Together we watched the New York skyline disappear in the winter's gathering afternoon mist. My voice, I think, was on the ship's stationery for my stalwart companion, Gaijin. Stephen Crist words that have gone through my mind on my every visit to the United States.

"There it goes, a runaway
hobby, with no one in control."

I had spent my most solitary
Christmas eve ever, in the
front bedroom of my Bronx
borough home, listening to
the choir of King's College,
Cambridge. Heartily homesick
for some gorse and heather
covered piece of land I hoped
would await my return some-
where in Europe, somewhere
in Ireland. With all the later's
sanitary shortcomings. And
Gabor Crist had spent his last
night sleeping on the subway.
Carrying with him his trusty
immigrant's brown paper bag.
Which contained, among other

sentimental and practical things, two child's cowboy suit for his daughters in Europe, two sweaters, two pieces of cheese, length of moccasins, Arao Islander's hat. This last navy blue thick woolly head covering with a tassel which he wore on his interborough train journeys going nowhere from last stop to last stop. And one wondered, what did not America have for us? It could have been as simple as that bushel of dollars we always dreamt was there. But even though our country has taken fistfuls of that mullah and celebrator's throw it up to come down as a soothing shower from the sky, one somehow feels that no kindred spirits like our own ready to speak and say, "This place would never be enough. This place would never be enough. And yet if there were voices of dissent and if they did dare speak. One could have said, 'This place really stinks'."

Yet, in my first months in New York I had my marvelous long walks. When my work each day on *The Ginger Man* finished sometime after one pm and I would go down the steep hill to Katonah Avenue to catch the bus along the street.

vated train. And there this roaring vehicle into the Bronx until it plunged into the water. I was not alone, and let me off walking in the sunlight of the downtown city where I would wander and wander. I am reverie born from the street scenes, buildings and people. When I was a child, I was as carefully as he could fragile breakable spirit. I clutched my few feeble doubts wondering more than a where I would get some place afternoon, to return the day. You athletic Central Park to work in the gym, followed by boxing room. I was left to the residence of the famous Arthur Donovan Frank Fulham. And this boxing instructor, who much more for my hope contentment than for my new life. Right hooks would, when I said I painted some pictures, the next day with introduction to the best galleries in seventh street. And I said I was instead of new news he had ready the afternoon further introduction to publishers and prominent in the Book of Month Club. And as much

Continued on opposite

The Act II 'study' of Otello

The glory that remains

Otello/Il barbiere di Siviglia

La Scala, Milan

John Higgins

Not only football managers suffer through having to make team changes. Opera houses are afflicted by the same problem. For Franco Zeffirelli's new production of *Otello*, which opened La Scala's season last month, Milan had assembled probably the best cast in the past decade for Verdi's opera. It is not easy to improve on Domingo, Freni and Cappuccilli for the three leading roles. Claudio Abbado, the theatre's ex-musical director, is still in process of peaching up his differences with Milan, but Carlos Kleiber, whose conducting of *Otello* is justly acclaimed north of the Alps, was on hand. By last week all had gone. Domingo

is preparing a recording of *L'elisir d'amore*. Freni and Cappuccilli were already in the middle of making *Simon Boccanegra* for Deutsche Grammophon (I hope to write about this later) and felt that days in the studios could not be followed by nights at the opera. Kleiber was ill.

At least Franco Zeffirelli's highly distinguished production remained. It shows the world gradually closing in on Otello. At first there is the triumph and the open countryside, the bustle and the glory. "Una vela... un vessillo!", not one sail and one ship but the spars and rigging of a whole navy gradually fill the back of the stage. The prosperity of Cyprus is proclaimed by the sacks of merchandise and the dimensions of the warehouses on the waterfront, while the unfurled flags make the point that this wealth derives from the power of Venice. Zeffirelli as usual is

meticulous about his history.

The unconventional aspect of the opening act is the timbered roof high up on the stage. It is there throughout the opera and almost imperceptibly moves in on Otello, much as the prison walls seal in Radames and Aida. Act II is no longer the ground-floor hall, specified by Verdi and Boito, but a gloomy study set about with trunks and packs of books and papers. As in August Everding's Hamburg production, the outside world is only a slit of bright, blue sky. Otello has already lost the open spaces of his victories ("Ora e per sempre addio"). The blaze of light (artificial) is reserved for the emissaries of the Venetian Republic in the following act.

In Salzburg Karajan emphasized the isolation of Desdemona by placing her in the middle of a vast empty sala. At La Scala Zeffirelli reverses the process by focusing in on

the tragedy and emphasizing its intimacy. I would guess that his own designs, drawing heavily on shades of brown and russet, have been influenced by those of Carlo Ferrario for the first Scala production, which the programme thoughtfully reproduces. It is a notable production, scrupulous and inventive at the same time.

Happily, before leaving for Milan I saw the first-night performance on video tape. Despite the disturbances inside and outside La Scala, and despite television sound, this was an evening of high distinction. Mirella Freni's Desdemona has grown and grown in power since she first sang it for Karajan in Salzburg; Piero Cappuccilli's Iago under the right conductor carries a formidable dose of poison; and Placido Domingo's Otello now has no rivals.

Accept no substitutes. But on occasions it has to be done. By

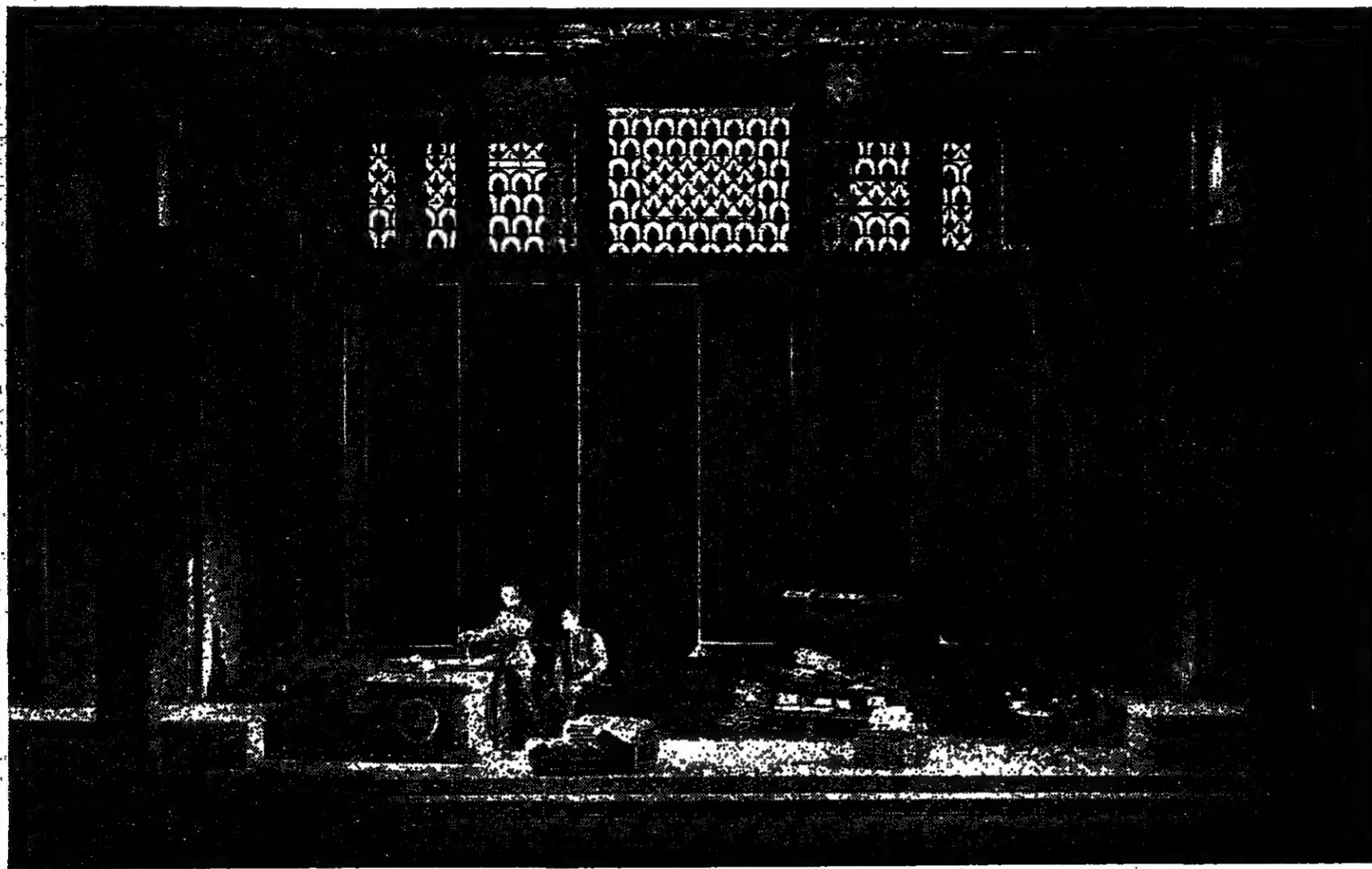
far the best of last week's second team was Carlo Cossutta in the title role. He has neither Domingo's clarion voice nor his new-found intensity, but he gives the role strength and unity together with a vocal solidity that all too many Otellos lack. Margaret Price, suffering from a cold, came into her own in the last act and deserved her ovation, but earlier in the opera seemed disinclined to give Desdemona much character. Silvano Carloti similarly offered a big-voiced Iago lacking guile and subtlety. And there is the difficulty with team changes. Zeffirelli's production had been carefully prepared with three principals: when they are all absent the staging inevitably sags a little. Giuseppe Patane in the pit did no more than hold together a makeshift side. The glory and strength of Carlos Kleiber's conducting, which someone should surely capture on record before long, had vanished.

La Scala's other turn-of-the-year opera, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, has been out of the Milan repertory for over five years now, but Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's staging of Rossini still comes up fresh and quicksilver. It began life in Salzburg, and there, as here, Figaro begins the day by getting out of his hammock and shinning down a pole, barber's pole presumably, to the street. At dawn in Seville the blinds don't go up to let the day in and instead come down to keep the glaring sunshine out. But Ponnelle should beware of pulling the same trick too often: Don Basilio's shadow grows and grows against the back of the stage during "La calunnia", just as Ford's did in the Glyndebourne *Falstaff* and Aldora expanded in the Scala *Cenerentola*. Ponnelle should reserve his next shadow song for *Dinorah*.

Fortunately Ruggero Raimondi was there as Don Basilio to dispense memories of repetitions. He stood literally head and shoulders above the rest of the cast, not the usual seedy music master but a figure of force beneath his grizzled hair. Raimondi's ebony voice can

only command, and he emerged as one of Seville's first citizens. Enzo Dara, familiar from La Scala's visit to London, is a notable comedian and resisted making Bartolo too decrepit a figure. Luigi Alva's Almaviva is now in the veteran class. The first-act serenades are pallid imitations of what they once were, yet Alva's sheer good humour and high spirits make up for the lack of tone.

Replacements—more changes—made for a lightweight performance. Frederica von Stade was no longer the Rosina, and Hermann Prey, Ponnelle's original Figaro in Salzburg, had also left. Elena Zilio was a pretty and neat-voiced ward, but with no touch of the viper. Angelo Romero, similarly good-looking as Figaro, lacked the dash, energy and sheer expertise to make the wheels of Seville whizz round. The general blandness also rubbed off on Thomas Schippers, who conducted too easily. La Scala needs back Claudio Abbado, who brought such bite and vigour to this score. It seems likely that he will return next season as musical and artistic director.



Collecting Forged in bronze

Bronze poses a peculiar problem within the general field of art authentication. Several, such as the *Possession of Artemis* in Athens, command a reverence normally reserved for paintings by Vermeer and da Vinci. Yet nearly all lack authorship (as an exception, only the *Athena of Cephissos*, springs to mind) and share with porcelain and pottery a lack of the recognised "marker" "signature-value" a sound archaeological provenance. It is scarcely surprising, then, that this relatively inexpensive copper/tin alloy, the value of which can be boosted a thousand fold once sculpted, has attracted more than its fair share of attention from forgers over the centuries.

Classical Greek bronze statuary has been a prime target in this respect since Roman times when the acquisitive Sulla gathered spoils of war and tribute indiscriminately to the envy of his wealthier but less adventurous colleagues. Once such collections became the most fashionable source of dinner conversation (part of a one-upmanship game) they were forced to either dig deep into their pockets or accept imitations which owed more to good wine than reality. And, of course, in the initial stages of the Renaissance, antique simulation was the essence of the bronze-caster's skill. (Then, in contrast to spurious signature-addition that has always been so prevalent among painters, we have a bronze trace as Bertoldo's *Belshazzar* losing attribution under a strategically-placed wax-coating!). Similarly for the two centuries prior to systematic excavations that accompanied Napoleon's assault on Egypt in 1798, excitement created by travellers' memoirs and by the mystery of hieroglyphs encouraged abuse in your ribs as he can do, will step aside as you excuse me. Where any can hear a telephone without the garbage grinding in a giant bulldown the street. And nobody is going to wake me morning in that wide land and say stop, don't take home my breakfast. And give my wife a darn and a fist in the head of the new dress suits from I Magnin's, maybe then he'll be us damn noisy kid to up and be thankful he skate board, he himself a good gentle himself. Even then you know, that it is a country can't beat. It only beats and gets plenty of practice two hundred years.

Donleavy, 1977.

trated in catalogues such as *Kao-ku-tu* (circa AD 1092) and the larger, but spuriously-bolstered, *Po-ku-tu* (circa AD 1108). The story of magistrate Wu Chüeh indicates the mood of the times. During provincial administration for Hsüeh-ho (circa AD 1120) he often set aside court sentences in return for "gifts" of archaic vessels, to ultimately retire well-endowed with 50 bronzes in store. At the same time though we have no way of knowing if criminals due for trial recognized the old gentleman's predilection and catered for it by purchase of fakes, in advance!

In our own times several market factors have boosted bronze forgery afresh. In Nigeria strict export controls have led to the development of complex smuggling routes across the African hinterland to move the few chance finds of ploughing and mining that supplement the principal Benin corpus looted by the Funtua Expedition of 1897 (see *Saturday Review*, August 21). In those routes have been infiltrated by forgers—marketers. In Tehran, trade flourishes in Luristan bronzes (particularly horse-trappings) the originals coming to the city via peasants working in the Iranian plains beneath the Zagros mountains. The fakes being multiple aftercasts of these finds. And in Cambodia, where the temple-plunder of American servicemen was, for a while, amply bolstered by local modern wares, the quality of fake has steadily risen to counteract initial rejection by European outlets. All these tactics are designed to search out the art expert's watershed of tolerance and his sensitivity to minor anachronisms.

The financial implications of these activities are enormous. An unpretentious seventeenth-century Benin amulet can fetch £3,000 with ease; a nineteenth-century belt-mask, with all its obvious stylistic inferiority to its sixteenth-century equivalent, still commands about £1,500. A genuine but fragmented seventeenth-century Thai head of Buddha may fetch £2,000; one a few centuries earlier, appreciably more. And Iranian pieces that might have been sold as part of a mixed lot for £100 or so a decade ago, now fetch that price individually. Fakes injected into these levels of the market must yield a turnover approaching £100 million. From a scientific standpoint, attack on the forger is multi-pronged. It starts with study of patination, the corrosion products that form on the metal's surface as it is attacked by active agents in the atmosphere or in water percolating the burial media. Oxidation yields black terracotta or amorphous red cuprite; chloride

attack results in formation of brilliant green azurite; sulphur attack produces the purple tinge of bornite. Secondary reactions lead to the carbonate formation of green malachite or blue azurite.

Patination is a metal-aging effect and so it is correctly regarded as evidence of bronze antiquity. But forgers know that too, whereupon patination-simulation has become highly-skilled practice nowadays, the degree of ingenuity seemingly geared to the gullibility of the likely market. Least ambitious is the glossing-on of ground-up artificial pigments, such as emerald green or prussian blue, as simple microchemical tests (for arsenic and iron, respectively) can promptly distinguish these compounds from natural carbonates. Alternatively, pale pink fluorescence under an ultra-violet lamp will indicate that a resin varnish was used in the spurious coatings.

Far more convincing are the various "pickling" processes used to accelerate corrosion growth. Vasari, in his *Lives of the Artists* of 1550, supported oil blackening or vinegar sprinkling for small castings while Vico recommended similar methods to the schools of classical coinage imitators that flourished in the mid-sixteenth century. But neither are effective as current techniques of dung-burial or exposure to fermenting grape-juice. Only the lack of gradation in corrosion penetration gives a hint of these treatments. It is only when metallurgical sections reveals intergranular corrosion (selective build-up of cuprite along individual metal grain boundaries) do we have a really convincing authenticity criterion in the midst of this patination chemistry.

The oft-quoted alternative of study, *composition analysis*, is similarly quite weak in many departments. Its ideal is a reasonable one: to use trace impurities in the alloy as "fingerprints" of the ores from which it was derived, thereby defining the piece's provenance. But ideal and reality soon part once it is recognized that prime contenders as ore identifiers, arsenic and antimony, are volatile and tend to be lost in the ore-metal smelting and melting substances: alternatives such as nickel, cobalt and silver are stable, but technical problems of accurate analysis soon creep in, as their concentrations rarely exceed 0.1 per cent. Low levels of iron, of about 0.2 per cent, are ubiquitous and lead, while possibly serving as an indicator of Roman pig-iron of pre-Hellenistic Greek prototypes, could otherwise scarcely distinguish the products of any major civilization from the middle of the first millennium BC onwards.

Only the gross technological change, bronze to brass (wherein the new alloy includes zinc at concentrations in excess of 15 per cent) has any major force as an authenticity tool. Each civilization introduced this change at some point: the Romans, in the mid-first century AD (when zinc-rich scrap coinage slipped into the melt); the Kashmiri and Indus Valley dwellers, in the seventh century AD; the Celts of South India and the Javanese, Cambodians and Thai only as late as the fifteenth century AD. In Nigeria the twelfth century brass-casters of Ife had no recognized forerunners but their craft development almost certainly coincides with a growth of contact with Europe, zinc ores moving by sea out of Venice and then onward from North Africa by caravan. Their pupils in Benin subsequently imported scrap metal and augmented their stock with local copper.

The scientific scene may seem rather gloomy, so let me brighten it in two ways. First, bronzes can be dated by thermoluminescence, not of the metal itself but of the ceramic-like casting-cores that most larger castings contain. Fired crystalline minerals included in that core (as strengthening "grog") act as a nuclear clock throughout antiquity storing energy released by trace levels of natural radiation in the core fabric itself and in its environs. A fake's stored energy is then only a fraction of its genuine counterpart. Heating of these minerals to about 500°C in the laboratory today causes energy release as a light signal, the intensity of which is proportional to the bronze's age. This dating prin-

ciple applies whether the core is of the black friable type characteristic of SE Asian, Nepalese and Indian bronzes (as that is a mixture of charcoal fragments and quartz), or of the compact type used in China which was derived from the local, mineral-rich loess earth that bounds the course of the Yellow river.

Secondly, there is the potentially powerful principle of *Lead isotope analysis*. Each lead ore can be fingerprinted by the concentrations of the isotopes ²⁰⁶Pb, ²⁰⁷Pb, ²⁰⁸Pb, and ²⁰⁹Pb, present in it, and while in absolute terms some lead-loss may occur during its addition to the bronze melt, the relative levels of the isotopes are immutable. Thus ratios, such as ²⁰⁶Pb/²⁰⁷Pb of 2.091, characterize not only bronzework from the Etruscan centre of Vulturno (circa 550 BC) but also the available ore from nearby Campiglia Maritima which was further exploited a few centuries later in the production of *sestertii* at mint in Rome some 100 km to the south. This ore stands distinct from those used by Renaissance metalworkers and, perhaps more importantly, distinct from that available from mines in Campiglia Maritima currently being worked. The forger today must contemplate the hair-raising exercise of scrounging about collapsed and waterlogged mine-shafts, hoping to pick over the scraps of ore-seams that the ancients left as uneconomic, or else leave on to pastures new.

Stuart Fleming

The author works at the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art at Oxford University.



A spurious shellac superstructure has been fabricated over the skeletal ruin of an original Chou dynasty bronze.

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Phyllis Sellick
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SATURDAY, 12 FEBRUARY at 7.30 p.m.
LONDON SYMPHONY CHORUS
HOLST: Hymn of Jesus
ELGAR: 'Enigma' Variations
FAURÉ: Requiem
EDWARD HARRY soprano DAVID WILSON-JOHNSON bass
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
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Serenade in D major K.250 (Haffner)
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JENNIFER SMITH soprano PHILIP LANCKRIDGE tenor
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Bridge

No justice

After studying tournament records for half a century I am convinced that luck plays a substantial part in duplicate as in rubber bridge. Skill alone does not win matches—least of all pairs tournaments. Partners who play their cards faultlessly do not always emerge with scores above those obtained by pairs who allow for an occasional mistake by opponents or who expect that fortune is constantly smiling upon them. Whether owing to desperation or nervousness, one player can be inspired to take an apparently ludicrous chance and succeed whilst another may be unjustly rewarded for refusal to take a risk of any kind.

Competitors in international events are not less dependent on lucky breaks than those who confine themselves to weekly duplicate matches in their local club. The only fact which emerges is that the standard methods of scoring give an advantage to those who overbid their cards against powerful opposition and that the victims of unusually brilliant play—or of bidding which deprives them of their maximum score—are not awarded adequate compensation.

Here is a deal where gross overbidding was unduly rewarded.

Game all; dealer East.

♠ 10 7 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

♠ 10 7 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

♠ 10 7 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

♠ 10 7 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

won with the ♠A, drew the last trump, cashed dummy's two winning clubs and played a small diamond to his hand, losing the ♠10 to the ♠J. West therefore led a diamond which ran to the ♠Q and declarer emerged with nine tricks, giving East West bottom score. Possibly East should have won the opening heart and returned a diamond which would destroy the end-play; but even with a penalty bonus of 500 the defenders would not have improved their position against all the East-West pairs who played and made Four Hearts.

A superlative defence against a slam gives one pair a substantial score, but the declarer and his partner are unduly punished if they alone fail to make the contract.

North South game; dealer South.

♠ 10 7 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

♠ 10 7 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

♠ 10 7 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

♠ 10 7 5 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

Edward Mayer

Gardening

Potatoes in the pink

Much breeding work with fruits and vegetables has been going on over the past 10 years or so in various horticultural institutes and other national establishments. This work is, of course, primarily directed to the production of improved varieties for the commercial grower, and of course as deep frozen produce is of such enormous importance these days, much of the breeding is directed towards varieties suitable for this market.

But eventually there is, as the modern jargon has it, some "spin off" for the amateur, and one of this year's tit bits that has come to us in retail packets is Celtic cabbage. This was bred at the Scottish Horticultural Research Institute. It is a splendid cabbage. It produces a heavy yield of solid round cabbages of an attractive medium green colour, with a very short internal stem. Its leaves inside are densely packed. It may be sown in mid-April to mature from September to November, or in mid-May to mature from November to February. Seeds are stocked by the main retail merchants, and I do suggest you grow it for an autumn or winter crop.

Now to something quite different. Are you contemplating moving house? Or have you done just that in the past year or two? If so, I think it would pay you to invest in Technical Bulletin No. 35 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and

Food, entitled *The Agricultural Climate of England and Wales*, by L. P. Smith (£2.40 from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, or through any bookseller).

New please do not be put off by the word "agricultural". This bulletin was primarily produced to help farmers, but climate affects us all—farmers, horticultural growers and gardeners. You may be moving house because you have no option—you have to go where your job is and put up with the climate. Or you may have already moved for one reason or another and you have to come to terms with the local climate. But maybe you are going to move, retire perhaps, or find a smaller place now that the children have grown up and gone away.

Anyway, if you have moved to a new environment and you take your gardening seriously it is extremely useful to have some elementary information about the climate. Possibly the most valuable bit of information is the length of the growing season. This can vary from 200 days in the north-east of England to 322 days in south-western Cornwall. For the purposes of this survey England and Wales were divided into 50 climatic areas, and for each area certain information about the weather is given. The growing season is already mentioned, and this heads the list of "areal averages". Next come potential transpiration,

the mean date of the last spring frost, irrigation need, average monthly rainfall, the average number of hours of sunshine a day, the day length for each month, also the average air and soil temperatures for each month.

Curiously, I have several requests for information about how to get rid of winter heliotrope, Petasites fragrans. This is a very invasive plant, deep rooted and difficult to eradicate once it has taken hold. It has large leaves, and white flowers in winter which have a powerful scent reminiscent of vanilla.

Because it spreads so rapidly it can become a great nuisance in a garden, and should only be planted in semi wild areas where it can do no harm. It is a late mauler. It cannot give the serious player for creating a world of his own, a world with its own rules and conventions which is so far removed from the workaday world with which the chessplayer expresses his ideas seem endowed with more life than the figures in Shakespeare's dream world.

Roy Hay

The Times special offer

The gardener's lucky dip



We have received so many requests from satisfied readers that we are again offering a plastic tunnel cloche, a bag of super hop manure, and we are repeating the recent offer of Curb, the bird repellent, because many gardeners have found that in the cold spells this winter the birds have made savage onslaughts on the buds of trees and bushes.

The cloche we offered last year has gone up considerably in price, so we are delighted that we have been able to obtain a practically identical tunnel, the Times Polyloche, made to our own specifications, which we are able to offer at 15p less than last year's cloche. It covers a strip 20 inches wide and 35 feet long, with a height of 13 inches. If desired of course, the plastic strip may be cut to provide several shorter tunnels rather than the full 35 feet. Used carefully, the plastic should last two years, and as the offer pack includes a replacement length you should be assured of four years' service.

The wire hoops are firmly anchored in the ground, the plastic stretched tightly over them, and this in turn is held in position with hoops of thin wire fixed outside the plastic sheeting. To get at the crop for picking, watering or weeding, you just push the plastic up between the two retaining half hoops of wire.

With the cost of fruit and vegetables mounting all the time these cloches could earn their outlay in a season or two if used to produce early strawberries, lettuce, peas, sweet corn and other early crops.

This year particularly, our gardeners will respond to applications of manure, especially those rich in nitrogen which is the plant food most quickly leached out of the soil by heavy rains. I have always been a firm believer in hop manure. The formulation we offer has a pleasant smell, is easy to handle, and you can use it on any soil, even on limy soils. It may be used as a top dressing at four ounces to about 10 square feet, or you may dig it in at eight ounces or more to the same area.

I like to treat my flower beds generously with hop manure before planting out my summer bedding plants. What is not used by the summer plants will still be there to give the wallflowers and other plants we put in during the autumn a good start. I use it of course for other flowers, fruits and vegetables.

The weight of a bag of hop manure varies according to how dry or moist it is, but as a rough guide one bag should give a top dressing of about 2,000 square feet and treat about half that area if dug in at the rates recommended above.

The bird repellent Curb I have used very successfully for years to protect the buds of our fruit trees and bushes, also our ornamental trees and shrubs, against bird damage. It is a chemical called ammonium sulphate. It is not a chemical called ammonium sulphate. It is only a chemical called ammonium sulphate. It is not a chemical called ammonium sulphate. It is only a chemical called ammonium sulphate.

The pack we offer contains three kilograms of Curb repellent powder and two litres of emulsion which gives long lasting adhesion of the chemical on buds or foliage. It is sufficient to protect against birds on 1,000 square yards of fruit trees or bushes; or 2,000 square yards of a normal garden where the damage is fairly light. And of course it will protect a large quantity of stored crops from rats and mice.

Curb sprayed on crops that are normally attacked by deer, rabbits and squirrels usually keeps these nuisances off. I have tried various bird and animal repellents but over the years I have found Curb to be the most effective. I would emphasize that you follow the instructions faithfully. Usually one application is sufficient, but sometimes in a hard winter I have found it necessary to give a second spraying after about two months.

It is not recommended that Curb should be mixed with other chemical sprays. If such sprays are used (winter washes on fruit trees for instance), they should be applied first and Curb last.

I must emphasize that sometimes birds change their feeding habits, and if they are desperate for food they may even take birds treated with Curb. We have a very large bird population in my area, but there is plenty of alternative food for the birds and I am glad to say they leave our birds alone.

Where two items are offered together, they may not come from the same supplier. So, if one item arrives on its own, do not worry, the other will follow in due course.



To order, complete the coupon in block letters. The offer is open to readers in the UK only. Delivery within 28 days from receipt of order. Queries, not orders, to David Sharpe at New Printing House Square, or on 01-837 1234, Ext. 7893.

Send to: Polyloche and Super Hop Manure Offer, Times Newspapers Limited, 32 Wharf Road, London N1 7SD.

Price including delivery

	£	Mos. Regd.
A. Cloche	4.75	
B. Super Hop Manure	3.00	
C. Cloche & Super Hop Manure	7.50	
D. Curb	9.95	

I enclose cheque/P.O. for £..... crossed and made payable to Times Newspapers Limited.

Name Address Postcode

Chess

No surrender

The spectator at a chess tournament, if he is not a chess player or a weak player, will be deceived by the expression on the faces of the contestants into believing that they are suffering the tortures of the damned and that something of vital importance is going on. What he fails to grasp is that under this mask of stern effort and concentration the players are enjoying themselves hugely.

Chess in fact possesses the distinction of being the most seriously frivolous of all indoor games and it is possibly for this reason that all the portraiture of the past, ranging from the monks of Mount Athos to George Bernard Shaw, have so roundly ridiculed it. They cannot give the serious player for creating a world of his own, a world with its own rules and conventions which is so far removed from the workaday world with which the chessplayer expresses his ideas seem endowed with more life than the figures in Shakespeare's dream world.

It is indeed quite remarkable how the chess enthusiast is insulated and cut off from the realities and the rigours of everyday life. Hence the reason for the popularity of chess in war time, in prisons and in every place where the harshness of reality is not to be borne. H. G. Wells put it in another way when he pointed out that if you wanted to destroy a promising young politician all you had to do was to teach him how to play chess properly. The emphasis is on the word properly. The weaker the player the less the protection he has against what is going on in the outside world.

Hence, oddly enough, the sanity of this unreal world. The players are dreaming a healthy, balm-giving dream from which if woken they cry to sleep again. Down here at Hastings one gets the impression that neither revolutions nor earthquakes would prevent the natural sequence of rounds from taking place. Ask a tournament competitor what day it is and the chances are he will give you a blank stare, but you may be sure that he will know what round it is.

For the chess player this is the year of the Candidates' matches, the year when eight of the world's leading players are meeting each other to decide who will challenge the world champion Anatoly Karpov for his title in 1978. Britain may or may not be self-sufficient in oil by the end of that year; but, writing and thinking as a chess player, my chief interest in the oil area in that year will be to see how our team does in the capital since it is in the capital of Iran that the Olympiad may well take place.

Nor do I exaggerate when I refer to the unconcern with which chess players regard revolutions. Once, many years ago, I was invited to play in a great international tournament at Havana. I believe this was

done in recognition of a book I had written on Capablanca, one of the greatest chess players of all time, and finally the finest player I ever produced. Unfortunately I was unable to accept the invitation since I had a lot of work in hand in Europe about that time. The tournament duly took place and course coincided with the of the Batista regime. A friend of mine, the Dutch master Ludowijk Prins, played in event and I asked him, on return to Europe, whether revolution had in any way affected the play in the tournament. Not at all, he said, I had heard some distant firing going on, but otherwise everything was perfectly normal.

I imagine that if chess been invented in the days of ancient Pompeii, the chess players would have continued to play while the world was falling in ashes round them. When and if the civil world comes to an end there some atomic blunder, I am sure it will not disrupt or interfere with, for example, participants in the noblest of Hastings Chess Congresses.

I seem to be in danger writing a commercial for Hastings chess; but indeed chess played in the Ladbroke Premier here has been enjoyable, not least the leadership. Oleg Mikhaliov. Romanishin. Just look at beautiful game he won in seventh round against former world champion, Boris Spassky.

White: Romanishin. Bk: Spassky. Ruy Lopez, Steh Defence Deferred.

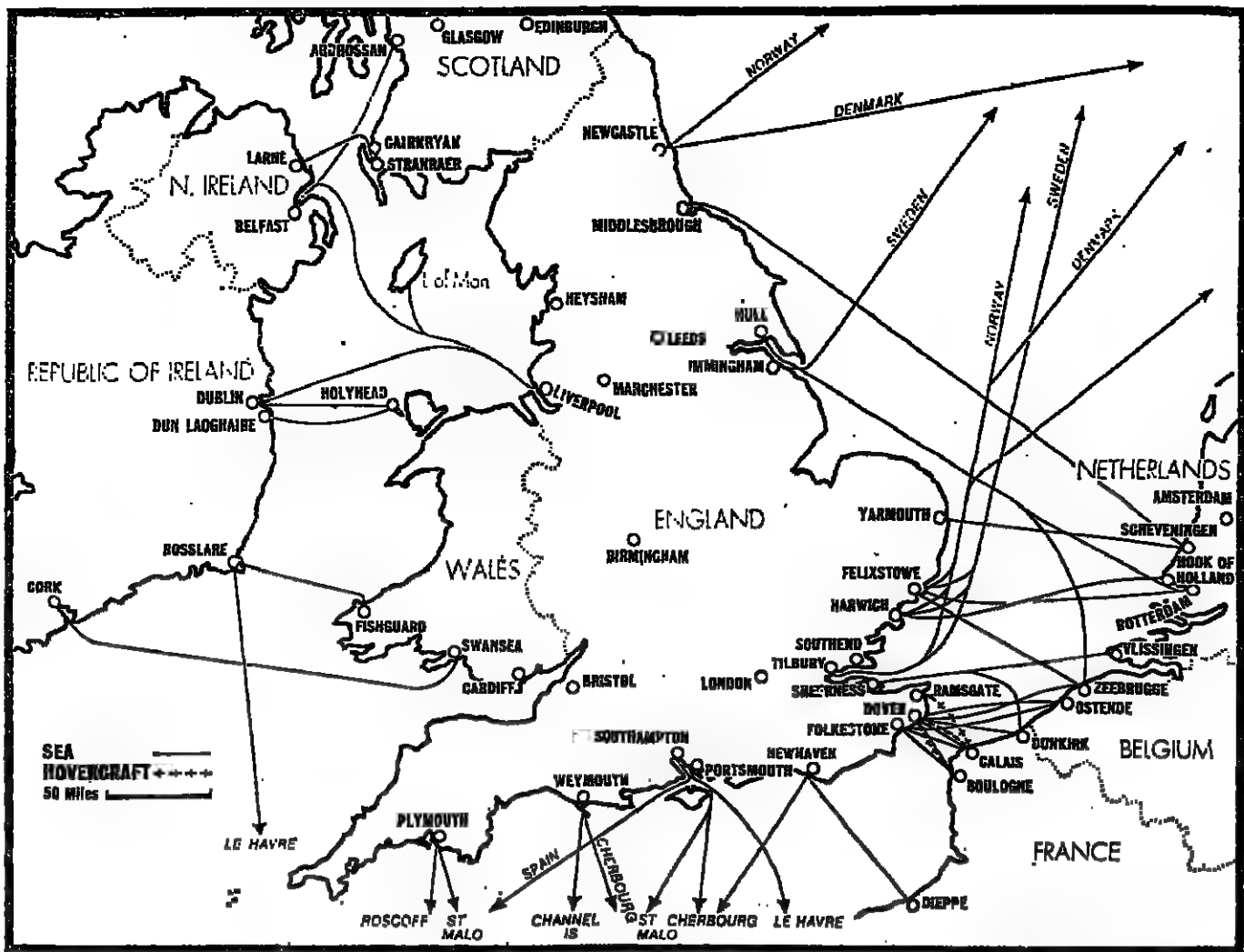
Clear waste of a tempo; I was 7... P-KK3. Nor is this a good idea. Correct was 8... B-R4; 9. P-B3. 9. Qx3. P-KK3. Decidedly, Spassky is on form in the game; instead the text-move and its sequel should play 9... Kx10. Kx-K2, P-KK3. The position of the moves makes all difference between a lost and a tenable game.

After 10... P-P; Rookishin had intended playing P-K5. Or if 10... P-QK11. KxP; P-KK3; 12. BxP; loved by P-Q5.

Rather better here is 11. P-P. 12. P-Q5. P-KK3. 13. P-Q5. P-KK3. 14. Q-R4. P-KK3. 15. P-Q5. P-KK3. 16. P-Q5. P-KK3. 17. P-Q5. P-KK3. 18. P-Q5. P-KK3. 19. P-Q5. P-KK3. 20. P-Q5. P-KK3. 21. P-Q5. P-KK3. 22. P-Q5. P-KK3. 23. P-Q5. P-KK3. 24. P-Q5. P-KK3. 25. P-Q5. P-KK3. 26. P-Q5. P-KK3. 27. P-Q5. P-KK3. 28. P-Q5. P-KK3. 29. P-Q5. P-KK3. 30. P-Q5. P-KK3. 31. P-Q5. P-KK3. 32. P-Q5. P-KK3. 33. P-Q5. P-KK3. 34. P-Q5. P-KK3. 35. P-Q5. P-KK3. 36. P-Q5. P-KK3. 37. P-Q5. P-KK3. 38. P-Q5. P-KK3. 39. P-Q5. P-KK3. 40. P-Q5. P-KK3. 41. P-Q5. P-KK3. 42. P-Q5. P-KK3. 43. P-Q5. P-KK3. 44. P-Q5. P-KK3. 45. P-Q5. P-KK3. 46. P-Q5. P-KK3. 47. P-Q5. P-KK3. 48. P-Q5. P-KK3. 49. P-Q5. P-KK3. 50. P-Q5. P-KK3. 51. P-Q5. P-KK3. 52. P-Q5. P-KK3. 53. P-Q5. P-KK3. 54. P-Q5. P-KK3. 55. P-Q5. P-KK3. 56. P-Q5. P-KK3. 57. P-Q5. P-KK3. 58. P-Q5. P-KK3. 59. P-Q5. P-KK3. 60. P-Q5. P-KK3. 61. P-Q5. P-KK3. 62. P-Q5. P-KK3. 63. P-Q5. P-KK3. 64. P-Q5. P-KK3. 65. P-Q5. P-KK3. 66. P-Q5. P-KK3. 67. P-Q5. P-KK3. 68. P-Q5. 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Travel

Bargains rule the waves



With some major changes being made in services to Scandinavia, and the possible introduction of duty-free Customs concessions on the Irish Sea routes, this state of affairs could be extended to all ferry services to and from Britain.

"If you are travelling in the peak season and you don't make your car ferry bookings fairly quickly, you may well come unstuck," says Mr John Lancaster-Smith, director of the Passenger Shipping Association.

"There are lots of bargains coming, offering people all sorts of inducements to travel. In the present economic climate people will turn to the cheapest holiday they can find—and one of the cheapest ways to go on holiday is to pack the family into the car and go off somewhere."

"I think that this will be another boom year for car ferries, and that the season will be longer than ever before."

Mr Lancaster-Smith's views are certainly borne out by early booking figures, and by the interest being shown in the various ferry companies' cut-price offers—many of which bring down the cost of taking your car and a family of four across to Europe this year to far below the £100 return being quoted by many sources.

The cost might be cut even further if ferry operators followed the example of one or two pioneers and introduced more business outlets on board the ferries—whether those outlets be additional duty-free shops or a better selection of restaurants, bars and discos. Those who would not welcome such innovations might remember that the English Channel is still one of the world's most expensive stretches of water to cross.

Ferry facts and figures tend towards the unbelievable, with 14,000,000 passengers using the 33 individual ferry routes to and from Britain last year and half of them passing through Dover. They also show a remarkable conservatism and lack of imagination among intending passengers—although motorists from the north-east are at last discovering the convenience of a Continental crossing from Felixstowe which avoids the road journey through or round London, and the soaring figures for Ramsgate suggest a happy future for the hovercraft.

With so many routes and so many ferry companies to choose from, it is virtually impossible to help people to be adventurous by giving specific advice for next summer. But here are a few general ferry do's and don'ts worth bearing in mind as you plan your holiday.

DO make your booking direct with the ferry operator, or through one of the motoring organizations (the RAC has an excellent over-the-counter service at their offices in Pall Mall, London). This important rule becomes more important if you intend to link up with another ferry service—in the Baltic, for example, or across from Italy to Greece. Some ferry operators are also United Kingdom agents for a ferry service overseas: at the same time as booking your car across the Channel, Townsend Thoresen can book you and your car from Barcelona to Majorca; DFDS will take you across the North Sea and carry you and your car between Copenhagen and Oslo—and if you book both at once you qualify for a 50 per cent fare reduction on the Copenhagen-Oslo leg of the journey.

DON'T leave your booking any later than you need to—particularly if you intend to travel in the school holidays. Helms the reassuring noise being made by the ferry operators, there could be a crash this summer.

DO look at the maps and the advertisements, and the brochures before choosing your route—for the choice is now greater than ever before and you could be saving yourself a lot of time and trouble. There are, operators agree, no "magic" routes—although they are still looking for them. But if you are heading for Brittany, Aquitaine, or northern Spain the new services from Portsmouth and Plymouth could save a lot of driving, particularly for those living in the south and south-west. Drivers bound for Germany and points east might find similar advantages in Olau Line's Sheerness to Vlissingen service, which will deposit them as close to the major motorways as Ostend does.

DON'T miss the boat—literally.

If you are going to Sweden or Spain, note that Swedish Lloyd's services are being withdrawn at the end of August. DO work out the best financial deal for yourself and your family and take advantage of what is offered on board. Examples: Hoverspeed's Ramsgate-Calais hovercraft service is not necessarily economical for just a car and driver because fares are based on the vehicle size alone and not on the number of passengers, but it is worth considering for a family. Another example is meals: children can (and do) practically eat the value of their fare at the self-service cold table lunch on P & O Normandy Ferries' service between Southampton and Le Havre.

DON'T try to drive too far too fast. Sealink, in their information booklet, suggest that a four-hour drive after disembarkation will bring you to the mid-west of Ireland or, on the Continent, to beyond a sea-linking Rennes, Paris and Cologne. Even an eight-hour drive is unlikely to get you to say, Switzerland—in fact personal experience, in a big car, suggests that you will need far longer than that. The same applies to the return journey, when, according to the RAC, drivers are particularly prone to accidents as they rush to catch the ferry.

It is better to be late and safe, and although arrangements are not generally known, several ferry operators have reciprocal arrangements to ensure that delayed motorists do get home if they miss the sailing they were booked on. Finally, DO exercise your choice of ferry route and operator. Nine ferry customers out of every 10 stipulate no more than their port of departure—and in so doing perhaps miss better deals financially, or in terms of time.

Ferry operators from the United Kingdom this year include: Sealink (British Rail plus European partners); Continental

services from Dover (to Boulogne, Calais, Dunkerque and Ostend); Folkstone (to Boulogne, Calais and Ostend); Newhaven (to Dieppe and Cherbourg) and Harwich (to the Hook of Holland). Also services to Northern Ireland the Irish Republic and the Channel Islands. Also Seaport hovercraft services from Dover to Boulogne and Calais.

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P & O: Services from Liverpool to Belfast.

Amstar: Services from Southampton to Santander.

P & O Normandy Ferries: Services from Dover (to Boulogne) and Southampton (to Le Havre).

DFDS: Services from Harwich and Newcastle (both to Esbjerg).

Olau-Line: Services from Sheerness (to Dunkerque and Vlissingen).

Swedish-Lloyd: Services from Southampton (to Elhøj), and from Tilbury (to Gothenburg).

Tor Line: Services from Felixstowe and Immingham (both from Gothenburg).

Hoverspeed: Hovercraft services from Ramsgate to Calais.

B & I Line: Services to Ireland from Swansea and Liverpool.

Robin Mead

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România is different. To some, another little Balkan state, another "faraway land few of us have heard of" ... to others, an incomparable novelty. Nothing exasperates a Romanian more than to be lumped in with the Balkans or the Slav states. "I am Roman," he says. His history, monuments, gift of the old Latin gab and taste for doing things his way confirm it. Beyond that, last pink-washed hotel lies Ovid's Isle, the poet's home in exile. This very resort is haunted, hallowed ground. It used to be called Carmen Sylva, after Romania's first queen. She was different, too. Plump, pink, untidy, snow-haired, voluble, romantic, short-sighted ... here, when the beaches were pastures, she bestowed salutations on the cows, taking them for loyal subjects.

Eighty miles away, the Danube delta is different also, unique in Europe. We entered that aquatic safari park, embarked in the black high-powered canoe and chugged halfway to a fan horizon on a dead-straight canal, seeing no life more wild than hostels of swans, like ourselves. As miredly we did not go far enough, we did not travel the Pelican road to the isles, the fisheries, violet lakes and water-lily lagoons. We met a woman who learnt to swim in her own reed-thatched, river-side cottage, round and round the bed, during the springtime inundations of the Danube banks. At Tulcea and Murighiol they offered accommodation in fishermen's huts: something the régime approves, something of a novelty for the western traveller in socialist lands.

We are travelling to Turgu Jiu, 400 miles inland, two-thirds of the way across Romania. With a long way to go we stick to the main tourist routes, crossing the Danube at Hirsova where Russian river cruisers are loading, crossing miles of black beanfields and oil-impregnated Phoenix, crossing Bucharest.

As small towns take over second-hand Christmas decorations from large towns, so central Bucharest seems to have gone in for cut-price bars of Paris, Rome and New York. Architecturally we chop and change: neo-classical, al-Deutsche, Byzantine. A trolleybus, boarded at random, rolls us past supermarkets, boulevards without end, gardens of wild roses and a cluster of archaic cottages with floral cornices and square dented caps for roofs. This last is the four-acre village museum where all the multitudinous rustic styles of the provinces are united.

The bucuristi are different again, if the samples we meet are typical: raffish, cynical, sophisticated. When we give the new Bucharest approach-road its official title, (George-Enel motorway), we are corrected: since the American President drove down it, everyone knows it as Nixon Boulevard.

We miss the old royal retreats on this trip, Sinaita and Bran, the spas, châteaux and hunting lodges north of the metropolis; and that supreme ecclesiastical experience of central Europe, the painted churches of the Bukovina, carapaced like tortoises, frescoed inside and out by methods no longer discoverable. Nor do we make the fourth corner of this diversified tourist-land, the newly opened Iron Gates cornice along the Danube gorges, Romania's sensational exit to the west.

Over every inch of our road a monastery or a cult—the square fortress of the boyars keeps watch. In pockets of the hills, tiny cherry orchards; through V-shaped clefts, the Carpathians, like a row of white handkerchiefs hung in the sky.

Finally, Turgu Jiu. A quite ordinary town, another open-air museum of cottage styles. This is where Brancusi was born. All streets converge on his "Endless Column", a Brancusian enlargement of the rustic "pillar of heaven" totempole or phallic emblem, carved in oak, a mofit of the region. You see it incorporated in the gingerbread scrolls of the little gates, lineals and shutters of houses— which often, with Romanian disdain of folkloristic niceties, are topped with corrugated-iron roofs.

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George Hutchinson

Urgent memo to Mr Crosland: root out these spies living in London

As Foreign Secretary in Mr Heath's Government, Sir Alec Douglas-Home dismissed 105 Soviet "diplomats" from London in September, 1971. He took them to be nothing but spies or active subversionists and felt that they were no longer acceptable in a free society. How right he was.

Of course there was an outcry in Moscow, where the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary were both denounced for illiberality and high-handedness, such is the Russian hypocrisy of the Russian regime, perhaps the ghastliest tyranny known to history. In Britain and elsewhere in the West Mr Heath and Sir Alec received their proper due of public support and approbation.

It is time, surely, for the present Foreign Secretary, Mr Anthony Crosland, to emulate Sir Alec with Mr Callaghan's concurrence and endorsement. Again, there are over many communist saboteurs masquerading as diplomats in London. Not all of them are in the Soviet Embassy. Some belong to other missions, yet leave their own Consulate, with its hideous monumental establishment

in Kensington Palace Gardens and alongside Baywater Road. It is an embassy building bestricken by the heavy oppressive character of the incumbent authority, this is it.

To say that London is overrun with Soviet spies would be an exaggeration (or so I hope). To suggest that they are over-eager is not over-numerous? You may think that even one spy is one too many. But remember that spies are endemic to capital cities: after all, we have our own agents in Moscow—and they are rather good, I believe. So it has been all through history. The spy is a permanent fixture—in every society. While we can hardly hope to eliminate them on our own territory we could, however, reduce their numbers, as Sir Alec demonstrated.

One of Mr Crosland's immediate duties should be to examine the complements of the various Iron Curtain embassies in London, to ask himself—or rather to find out—what all their members do, and to rid us of some of these swollen cohorts. The saboteurs are not present in themselves—in their own right, so to speak; they have their direct accom-

The spy is a permanent fixture in every society.

While we cannot eliminate them on our own territory, we could reduce their number.

plishes, some of whom, sad to say, are British subjects, while others can only be called dupes. All are dangerous.

There can be no extravagance in saying that the United Kingdom and its institutions are being undermined and the internal causes have external—alien—origins. These subversive influences are to be found not only among the Marxists of the Labour Party in Parliament and in the corridors of Whitehall, but in the sphere of home, rather than foreign, affairs. That is where the damage lies nowadays: in the field of domestic policy.

course not. Some of their contemporaries—and but for the laws of libel I could name one or two—were of the selfsame mould and similarly recruited into Soviet service.

A few of them survive, enjoying their indexed public pensions (and no doubt a trouble-free conscience), while others have died. Their successors are present in Whitehall, and we should never forget that—especially in the sphere of home, rather than foreign, affairs. That is where the damage lies nowadays: in the field of domestic policy.

Meanwhile there can be little doubt that agents of the KGB—the Soviet Committee of State Security—have been interesting themselves, and interesting themselves beyond toleration, in the lives and affairs of three British citizens of standing who are prominent critics of communism: Mr Robert Moss, Mr Brian Crozier and Mr Iain Hamilton.

Mr Moss, the author of *Chile's Marxist Experience*, is the director of the National Association for Freedom, of which Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, VC, is chairman. Mr Crozier (a member of the council of the National Association), is the director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict, with which Mr Hamilton, a former editor of *The Spectator*, is also associated—as are Professor Leonard Schapiro, Professor Max Beloff and that great authority on counter-insurgency, Sir Robert Thompson.

Committed as it is to exposing the activities and presence of the KGB throughout the western world, the Institute is a natural target for the attentions of that all-pervasive instrument of repression, it suffered a massive theft of documents from its offices in London in 1975, when no less than 25 files were stolen. Worse was to follow last summer, when Mr Hamilton's house was broken into and then set on fire. These were no ordinary criminal acts of burglary, arson and intimidation.

But there is more to it than this—much more. For one thing, we now have the National Union of Students complaining about the activities of foreign intelligence services in our own universities—including, needless to say, the KGB. The NUS—understandably affronted—is to conduct an investigation. As the president, Mr Charles Clarke, was saying last week: "We are not prepared to tolerate these activities. We believe many English universities have agents from various organizations operating within them." Others are thought to be the CIA, SAVAK (of Iran) and BOSS (of South Africa).

Three ministers hold special responsibilities in this field. The first is the Prime Minister himself. The others are the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. They ought surely to scrutinise themselves at once.

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Moscow's grand hotel, 25 storeys high and untouched by Russian hands

A twenty-five storey crescent 80 metres tall will soon rise on Moscow's northern skyline, opposite the rocket-tipped shaft of the cosmonaut monument. The four-star luxury hotel, first of its class in the Soviet Union, is being built as part of preparations for the 1980 summer Olympics. Literally and figuratively new ground has been broken.

The entire project is foreign. The architect and manager are French and the foundation is being laid by Yugoslavs. The only Russians within the building site perimeter are the dustmen and charwomen.

Apart from sand, gravel and cement practically everything is shipped by rail or lorry from France. All the fittings and fixtures, from doorknobs to bath-tubs and lifts will be of French or other western make. Plans provide for 1,821 rooms, including 53 two-room suites and six three-room suites with a total of 3,642 beds.

The three top floors will house several restaurants and bars, each restaurant with its separate kitchen and cuisine. French, Russian, Georgian, Armenian and central Asian as well as simply international. The total restaurant capacity will be 3,400. The ground floor, besides the lobby, will include a shopping concourse.

The crescent will be flanked at one end by a 1,000 seat concert hall and a simultaneous translation system, and multi-purpose stage and retractable cinema screen. The entire operation is being handled by the French Société Etudes Financière et de Réalisation Immobilières, known for short as Sefti, on contract with Intourist, the Soviet state tourist agency. Sefti is directed by M Jean Claude Aron, with offices on the 49th floor of the Paris Tour Montparnasse, which Sefti also built and owns.

The estimated cost in foreign currency (exclusive of materials supplied by Soviet organisations under separate agreement) is 604 million francs, 20 per cent cash and 80 per cent credit, guaranteed by the French Government. About 10 per cent of the financing is by a consortium of private banks, the largest contributor being Credit Lyonnais.

The project was the outcome of long negotiations started in mid 1972. Since then Paris-based American banker David Karr, one of the pioneer negotiators, has made close to a hundred trips to Moscow. At the outset there was talk of many different projects, including three or four hotels, one in Leningrad, another in Vladimir. Blueprints for these were even prepared.

In 1974 a Franco-Soviet protocol of intent was signed, envisaging a 700 million franc contract before there was any decision as to how many hotels and where. Eventually, by May 1975, they settled for one luxury hotel in Moscow. The plans were accordingly prepared, and submitted in September to the Soviet side which approved them one month later.

Next came the choice of the location. The present site was finally agreed on and named over to Sefti on April 15, 1976. The construction equipment, virtually all of it French, including cranes, concrete mixers, bulldozers, even hand tools, had been shipped in the meantime.

The French managers, engineers, technicians and clerical staff and the Yugoslavs—some 240 employees plus a few wives and children—were housed in student hotels two kilometres away in the suburb

of Ostankino. At the corner site a cafeteria restaurant with French serves French and Yugoslav meals at notional prices.

The Yugoslav workers, Serbs, plus a few Croat, Macedonians, are supplied Belgrade building organs known as Komgrad which awarded the contract competitively on a basis. Its chief have had pre-worked abroad, in Germany, France, and are well versed in French to ser interpreters.

All personnel have monthly visas and a home and back at special rates. An Intourist on the site arranges inside the Soviet Union takes orders for tickets, transfers and sports. This winter the Yugoslav to organize several teams.

The equipment, buildings and staff assembled by June 1, ground was broken. And will go ahead non-stop if the weather permits. Considerable complexities, things have fairly smoothly save for sional hitches when del of materials were held; avoid delays a regular service is being jointly ed by the French firm S and the Soviet.

Soyuzvosttrans. There is rivalry among drivers & fastest run from Paris to Moscow. The record so far days flat, it was set by a loaded with French wine was so shaken up that 4 kegs spilled open in the. Autumn has shaded winter early this year, frosty air crash-hel figures in yellow padded j scurry about the concrete of the semi-circular concave excavation, setting the frames for pouring the forced concrete foundation more weeks and the will start sprouting above snow.

The Yugoslav brigade to complete its part of d by this time next year, they will be phased out then some \$50 million drawn from all the bu trades (a goodly portion them may prove to Portuguese) will arrive o scene, and the superlat will begin to assume its t. To allow ample time "breaking in" before the sure of the 1980 Olympic target for completion of thing, including the ir furnishings, is April 15. On that date Sefti is sup to pack up and turn lock, any barrel of iron, which will be exclusive charge of staffing and or the four star hotel.

In the initial stages of tations the French had t that they share in running hotel, at least for a transit period, until local ones be sufficient to cater to for a year's training in Fr hotels. Sefti is confident it will keep to the schedule the hotel will be ready on t. This is more than can be for another, even more tious project the Moscow I. International Trade Centre, ably scheduled to be read the end of this year, it's yet even a hole in the gr

Edmund Ste

The orgy of greed that has put a blight on Oxford

"The erosion of Oxford is no accident. It is a disease of the times and is happening because the structures of our civilization and culture are being challenged, if not destroyed. Those of us who feel that in the past decade or so Oxford has declined from a place of enlightenment to just another provincial city are inclined to wonder whether we are not merely victims of nostalgia. Mr James Stevens Curl, former chairman of the local civic society and author of a book just published has no such doubts.

Indeed in his view the rot set in at least a century ago. He is certainly no medieval purist and is a warm admirer of much that the Victorians built, particularly the leafy avenues and crescents of north Oxford. But, as he sees it, the hopes of the mid-nineteenth century, not to mention the legacy of the previous millennium, have been dissipated in an orgy of greed, tastelessness and obedience to that prime object of conservationist demagoguery, the motor car.

His is a curious offering, part little more than a guide book in the Baudelaire/Proust tradition which, as befits his position as an architect, pays tribute to some distinguished contemporary buildings as well as to the city's older glories. But every now and then he seems no longer able to contain his rage. Sober reports are criticism gives way to outbursts of unbridled scorn.

The Speedwell Street telephone exchange, for example, is "among the ugliest buildings in Britain". It displays such a total lack of feeling for the scale of Oxford, as well as scark

lack of sensibility in itself that one despairs for the future environment". Or again, "between the (Covley) works and Headington is a landscape from the world of concentration camps and inhumanity. The fact that the gentle, charming surroundings of a national treasure should be maltreated in this way is nothing short of a disgrace".

Yet on the whole he succeeds in making his point which is that cities like Oxford—or, for that matter, Cambridge, Worcester, Hereford, Exeter, Winchester and Edinburgh—are endangered not by comprehensive redevelopment but by carelessness and insensitivity. That is the erosion of which he writes, and even the best modern architecture cannot prevail against it.

Who then is to blame? For Mr Curl the chief villains are local politicians and the planning bureaucracies they have created. "The power held by local authorities is enormous... the environment of today reflects the abysmal mediocrity of the power-groups and individuals who make decisions affecting our surroundings. In such an environment there can be no pleasure, no redeeming feature, no hope."

John Young
James Stevens Curl, *The Erosion of Oxford*, Oxford Illustrated Press, £2.55.

In our centenaries feature which appeared on January 5, we wrongly described Rubens as a Dutch painter. His native city was Antwerp, now in Belgium.



A close-run thing: the finish of last week's Calcutta Derby.

Sportview

Go East young man for thrills of the Turf

The Calcutta Derby was run last Saturday at the Maidan, a racecourse as extensive as Ascot, with the stands looking much as they must have done there 50 years ago. In the days of empire, the arrival of the victory in a carriage procession yielded nothing to the royal meeting at Ascot in its pomp and splendour. That has gone now, but the Royal Calcutta Turf Club still prospers.

The finish of this year's Derby, run over a mile and a half, saw the two most fancied horses going neck and neck for the line, pursued at a distance by the rest. Raymond Guest, one of five English jockeys spending the winter in Calcutta, rode the winner, Topspin, and "Kipper Lynch" rode Sunbird, beaten by a neck.

Nor was that the end of the English connexion. Although all 11 runners were bred in India (it is against the law now to import a horse to race, though not the occasional stallion and brood mare) the winner's trainer, Shivendra Singh, learned his trade at Newmarket under Clive Brittain. Aged 24, Shivendra is in his first full season as a trainer, and even the partnership

between him and his jockey can be traced to Newmarket.

Raymond Guest, son of one of Doug Smith's workriders, was staying with his father in Newmarket while Shivendra Singh was there. With a riding weight of 8st 6lb, Raymond was already finding it hard and unrewarding work trying to establish himself as a professional jockey at home. "If they wanted anyone at that weight they could get Lester Piggott," he says wryly.

To make a better living, Guest looked farther afield. He tried Greece without liking it, then Scandinavia, which is where he first broke through. Madras followed, for four successive winters, and last November, through the New-

market grapevine, he joined Shivendra Singh.

In England the name of Raymond Guest is less well known than those of Lynch or Colin Williams or Eccleston or Turk, who were all in Saturday's field. This is not to say that as a travelling jockey with an honest reputation and an overseas Derby in his locker, Guest is much less well off than they are. Williams and Turk, for example, work for Calcutta stables in less good form than Guest's.

Since chancing it abroad, Guest has ridden enough winners in Denmark, Sweden and Norway to buy himself a house in Copenhagen. On Saturdays he rides in Sweden, on Thursday nights in Norway;

when the racing is in Malmo he commutes by hydrofoil. With a total of about 35 winners during the Scandinavian season, many of them on horses bought from England, he has much more fun than if he were still struggling to stay in the saddle at home.

In Calcutta, his young trainer has found him a fix and he has a bearer to polish his buttons, a bearer to do his laundry, a bearer to clean his boots. He hopes for 20 winners in this his first season in Calcutta. Having landed the Derby, worth £7,000 to the winning owner, and therefore £700 to Guest, he may do even better.

What is, of course, denied to someone who settles his riding in Scandinavia and India, perhaps one day in Hongkong or Singapore, is the opportunity of partnering the world's best horses. Although the Norwegian colt Noble Dancer raised the status of Scandinavian racing by doing so well in last year's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, he was an exception. But for a young man like Raymond Guest, who is 25, riding abroad has its advantages.

John Woodcock



Part of

Matthew Brady's portrait

of William Russell

The war reporter, through the lens of the war photographer

This recently-discovered photograph of William Howard Russell, *The Times* correspondent who reported the American Civil War, the Indian Mutiny and the Crimean War, is an original portrait from the studio of Matthew Brady, the celebrated American Civil War photographer. It was probably taken just before the outbreak of that war in 1861.

Russell is wearing the uniform of a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. It is not known whether he was entitled to wear it, although he was Irish and had served as Deputy Lieutenant for the Tower Hamlets. Obviously it distinguished him from both the Union and Confederate forces.

The portrait was found in a large collection of Brady photographs, which was recently auctioned in Baltimore. Mr LeRoy Bellamy, an archivist at the Library of Congress, said that they clearly came from the Brady studio in Washington because of the curtains and studio props. They are a few of the thousands of portraits the troops had taken of themselves before going off to fight.

Brady was by far the most distinguished photographer of his time, and as the clouds of war gathered he decided to record as much of the historic conflict as possible, at whatever the cost. By 1861 he had assembled a large team of photographers and moved from New York to Washington.

In between his hazardous expeditions to the front with

the Union armies, Brady took literally thousands of portraits. Generals and private soldiers waited hours in his studio for their turn, and President Lincoln believed that Brady's pictures of him did much to establish his image in the nation.

Russell was a controversial figure before he went to the United States, and soon after his arrival in New York *Harper's Weekly* reported that he had expressed "his regret that his presence had too often been like that of the stormy petrel, the harbinger of trouble. He hoped that in the present case the experience of the past might be satisfied, and his pen employed to record the circumstances of a reconciliation so precious, rather than those of a fratricidal war so deplorable to the feelings and interests of humanity."

It was not to be. He was soon considered by the North to be too friendly to the South, and instrumental in influencing British public opinion in favour of the Confederacy. His report of the first battle of Bull Run, in which he described the fleeing Union troops as a rabble also angered the North.

Brady, however, was commended for photographing the rout of the New York Zouaves. Not that it did him much good at the time. He spent 100,000 dollars of his own money photographing the war, and died in bankruptcy and obscurity in 1896.

Michael Binyon

Togo pays a harsh price in the name of God and the people

The young soldier who in 1963 took part in the assassination of Sylvanus Olympio, the first President of Togo, is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the coup which brought him to power. General Gnassingbé Eyadéma, was one of a group of soldiers who, having served in the French army in Indo-China and Algeria, found they were not to be redeployed on return to their own country. Their frustration led them to confront Olympio at his home and in a subsequent physical struggle, he was killed. Eyadéma, who, according to all reliable sources, pulled a gun and fired the fatal shot.

The reins of government passed to Nicolas Grunitzky, leader of the Opposition, whose regime, torn by internecine strife, staggered on until January 13, 1967, when the army took over symbolically on the anniversary of the previous coup, suspending the constitution and all political activity. Eyadéma, by then a lieutenant-colonel in command of the army, hung back but four months later assumed the presidency himself.

The overriding consideration was to set up an administration that would unite the country once and for all and eliminate the north-south jealousies that had hampered previous governments. At first there were doubts whether President Eyadéma was capable of filling this role, but he has gradually grown into it. He founded the current party, the Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais in 1969, and has continued his tough rule with a handful of ministers ever since.

The RPT has unquestionably given the Togolese a sense of

national identity they have never had before. The party has been provided with a lavish conference centre, built like other prestige projects from the proceeds of the recent boom in phosphates, which has far surpassed cocoa and coffee as the nation's chief export earner.

Critics of the regime regard the President as a despot or benevolent dictator according to the shade of opinion. The price of lasting peace and stability is harsh. Amnesty International has reported the torturing of political detainees not as part of an interrogation process, but for the diversion of the torturers. Punishments include beating with steel whips or chains and electric shock treatment. Sometimes prisoners have been forced to beat each other. Other reliable sources allege that President Eyadéma himself has both witnessed and taken part in such punishment, some of which inevitably end in death. His power is apparently undisputed.

When I visited President Eyadéma just over a year ago, I was received in the sumptuous modern palace he has built for himself in Lomé, the capital. Guards lined the corridors leading to his office and when he rose to greet me, I was able to grip his outstretched hand only by leaning far across the massive desk even though we are both very tall. It was not difficult to understand why the broad mass of Togolese see in him the star quality they expect of their head of state.

Charming, relaxed, athletic-looking but with a most imposing physical presence, he nevertheless betrays the effects of his years of supreme power

and the nauseating stream of adulation expressed by the government-controlled press, radio, television, roadside boardings for ubiquitous giant portraits. He attributes all his actions to the will of the people or of God and is effectively above the law. Occasional promises to restore government to civilians are regularly followed by "spontaneous" demonstrations of support requesting General Eyadéma to stay in office. International conferences are occasions for wildly exuberant demonstrations of loyalty to the President, by thousands of youthful amateurs, uniformed political dancers who gyrate and African rhythms and chant more adulatory slogans. The experience is both exciting and disturbing, for the Nazi salute of the dancers reflects inseparably the Nuremberg rallies of the 1930s.

By far the oldest and most intractable problem abroad is the case of former western Togo. The present republic, an incongruous finger of land, less than 40 miles wide at the sea and reaching 370 miles northwards, between Ghana to the west and Benin to the east, is roughly the eastern twin of the old German protectorate of Togoland. At the end of the First World War Togoland was divided into two mandated territories, Britain taking the western portion and France the eastern.

In 1956, when Gold Coast was to become the independent state of Ghana, the people of western Togo voted in a referendum for integration into Ghana. The exiled National Liberation Movement of Western Togoland based in Kpalimé Togo, has been trying for years to reverse this deci-

sion without success. argument is that, had it known at the time that Fr occupied Togo was to be independent, too, the would have gone the way. In any case, the people south, predominantly had wished all along for Togo where most of kin are living, and their a tions should have been all for.

The movement claims punitive measures have been taken by the Ghanians to press sympathy for the a well as contacts bet peoples divide by the tier. President Eyadéma, wishing to disturb his relations with his much s er neighbour, has been r to bring the question the open. Because the dis area contains valuable c and cocoa plantations, would affect the Volta i hydro-electric scheme Ghana have already accused of harbouring torial ambitions.

He is more interested in noting Togo's peace-ful role as a kind of Af Geneva and as a meeting for non-African affairs. signing of the Lomé Co tion was an important st in this direction, but the decision to ease the secret of ECOWAS, which he is to found with General G in Lagos, must be a bitter appointment. While any other steps towards Tog aggrandisement must aw revival of the phosphate ket, life for the 90 per ce the two million Togolese live off the land couc much as it has for hundr years.

Geoffrey Wes



The events which led to *The Times* not being published on Thursday can be quickly described. We received a copy of the magazine *Index on Censorship* which had a long article by David Astor, the ex-proprietor of the *Observer*, an article which was very critical of the print unions and of the closeness of the editorial and management of Fleet Street in dealing with the print unions. We prepared a report on the contents of Mr Astor's article and put it into the paper in the ordinary way. Two printing chapels objected to the report of one, the machine minders' chapel of the NGA, persisted in their objections after being told that they would have the same kind of reply in a subsequent issue which *The Times* normally gives to those who are criticized in our columns. That is not an unconditional right of reply, as it depends on the material submitted and being suitable for the other paper, but it is normally a full and complete consequence. At first we were presented with a demand that part of the report should be cut out, and we dealt with the modified demand by saying there should be additional material from the Franco report expressing the chapel's protest against the allegations. Mr Astor was making. We are not prepared to cut the article and we were not prepared to add to the article under trade union pressure. As a suit the chapel refused to print a paper. This was not action taken by the NGA as a union, but the union officials advised the chapel to work normally. It is perhaps best to pass over the replies that the Prime Minister gave on the matter and question by Mrs Thatcher. They certainly provide a basis of doctrine for dealing with this sort of situation, and present the Prime Minister's extreme reluctance to accept any criticism of trade union action in any circumstances. We naturally are Mrs Thatcher's view that the issue is a vital one. The editorial independence of a press exists or survives in only about one fifth of the nations of the world, but is essential to democracy, unless

the press has freedom of speech the public does not have freedom of speech or information. Those who wish to maintain the freedom of a nation must stand behind the editorial freedom of the press, even though they know that it will sometimes be abused and often be wrong in its judgments. Those in the press who want to maintain its freedom must also try to raise the standard of its news reporting, its sense of responsibility, its willingness to report all sides and its essential fairness. Only a fair press will retain the public confidence that is needed by a free press.

In establishing the editorial freedom of *The Times* we have had in our history to deal with three major influences. Early in the nineteenth century we established our freedom from government and government subsidization; at about the same time we established our freedom from advertisers who in the eighteenth century press were able to insert paid puffs recommending their plays or their pills as though such puffs were an independent editorial opinion.

After our experience of Lord Northcliffe, in which *The Times* staff had a long struggle to resist the very vilful political control of their proprietor, independence from proprietorial direction was agreed in the letter to Lord Astor of Hever which was written by Geoffrey Dawson on his reappointment. That was confirmed at the time of the sale of the majority interest to the Thomson family, and editorial independence has been a consistent principle of both *The Times* and Thomson ownership.

The Times has had different relationships with different governments, with a sceptical scrutiny being the normal and perhaps the wisest attitude. Yet we are certainly not enemies of governments as such. Our very different relationships with our advertisers and with our proprietors are obviously important and friendly ones. Both are essential to the wellbeing and indeed to the continuance of the newspaper. The principle of editorial independence is therefore one of independence and not of hostility.

like any other of his political contemporaries, Anthony Eden's career was almost entirely devoted to foreign affairs. Only his last twenty months in Downing Street from 55 to 1957 added an unhappy dash. For him therefore the contest between the world in which Britain was a major power, at the head of a worldwide empire, and the difficult era of transition in the fifties, when the realities of the postwar world struck me, was much more taxing than for those in public life on the home front. He had adjusted to that changing world during the war, but faced by the Suez crisis in 1956 he tired.

The brilliance of his early career should first be recalled. His early appointment as PPS to Sir Austen Chamberlain set the course after 1926 and at the age of thirty-eight in 1935 had become Foreign Secretary. It was easy to underrate him as a speedy climb to high office, the easy career of a prodigy, the easy, upward amateur le could be fixed so naturally to an English tradition as to take his serious ability insufficiently appraised. In fact as diplomat and negotiator he was professional through and through, missing few of the emotional facets of any problem, capable of sustained hard work when it was demanded of him. In the Europe of the twenties he was in the front rank of statesmen and was acknowledged as such.

It was a world where American power was scarcely at all exerted where the imperial era concentrated power in Europe. Eden was in his element, grappling with the rise to power of Hitler in Germany, with Mussolini's ally, with Franco's emergence in Spain and with Stalin's grim and calculable domination of the first Union. For two critical years his authority was interwoven with his resignation in 1938 as Chamberlain's unwillingness to take up an initiative of Roosevelt and Chamberlain's own gle-handed intervention in Britain's relations with Italy.

After nearly forty years it may

be hard to recall how brave a symbol Eden was for younger people, that is, for those who had not seen his generation who had fought in the trenches in the First World War; all the survivors were determined to avoid another great war; but where others were bent on avoiding it through appeasement Eden thought to avoid it through building up strength and warning of the aggressors. What he meant for the anti-appeasement front was recalled by Churchill in his memoirs on hearing the news of Eden's resignation: "I must confess that my heart sank, and for a little while the dark waters of despair overwhelmed me."

In the war years Eden's prominence was naturally overshadowed by Churchill. His task in keeping in touch with difficult allies—the Russians in particular—exercised his talents to the full. At no time was his diplomacy—astute, skilful, often imaginative—of greater value to the country and the whole allied cause. In all foreign relations he was a trusted adviser to Churchill and sometime a necessary curb on his exuberance.

His return to office as Foreign Secretary and deputy Prime Minister in Churchill's government of 1951 was to a world in which the Europe he had known before the war had disappeared. A new Russian domination of eastern Europe faced the world. The United States, if the United States in 1951 to have the status of a world power by appearing still to be ruler of considerable empire, that was an illusion.

Yet Eden could still display his talents. He was happier dealing with Anglo-American affairs with Eisenhower in the White House, though not at all with Dulles at the State Department. His firmness and persistence were tested in 1954 when the four-power conference at Berlin in January settled nothing about the future of Germany but did arrange the Geneva meeting on Korea and Indo-China in April. There Eden fended off a dangerous proposal from the French and Americans for a major intervention in Vietnam about the time of the fall of Dien Bien Phu

sod, despite Dulles's impenetrable suspicion of the Chinese and Vietnamese, brought off an agreement that enabled the French to leave Vietnam—and save the world from a perilous crisis.

In the same year—an *annus mirabilis*—Eden's energetic advocacy arranged a nine-power conference in London which succeeded in putting an end to the allied occupation of Germany and convinced Germany's own entry into Nato. In neither of these conferences might there have been success but for Eden's active and effective part.

The end was sad, and made Eden's brief ministry the turning point of British post-war affairs. He succeeded Churchill as Prime Minister in 1955. The task would in any case have taxed him but illness was nerved, emphasizing deficiencies in the temperament and the political touch that was needed. These faults had not limited his capacities as a Foreign Secretary, especially while Britain's world role was everywhere felt to be significant. Because of increasing ill-health they were, soon apparent in the national leader, lacking a full grasp of the home affairs, and of the appreciation of the problems agitating a generation that had grown up in the war years.

Yet paradoxically it was his misjudgement over Suez that broke him and ended his career, an unhappy operation in its conception and confused in its aims, harking back to ideas of an imperial lifeline and strategies of the past. The student of Oriental languages was defeated by the rising nationalism of a new world. His tenure lasted only twenty months before his physical decline forced his resignation.

Set against his long tenure in foreign affairs the Eden of Downing Street may have obliterated the earlier distinction. It would be unjust to forget that brilliance. He was a man of obvious and now unfashionable virtues—honour, probity, patriotism—and of a debonair style that may now be outmoded but can be remembered with pleasure and respect.

The Joint Working Party on the Ethical Responsibilities of Doctors practising in the NHS deserves credit for identifying a fundamental problem confronting doctors with increasing frequency—namely, that, like Ales, their conclusions are idealistic rather than practical and there is some danger in suggesting that their profession shares its ethical responsibilities to patients with the state. Indeed in the sphere of "macro ethics" to the population of general doctors, they say, has no special responsibilities not to create special conflicts for doctors by pursuing political ends. But governments always do pursue political ends—as most recently with the Health Services Act, which was an overtly political measure that would not improve the health care of anyone in Great Britain.

And the profession, the working party say, has a special responsibility not to create ethical conflicts

Cannabis leaves

From Mr D. A. Atkinson

Sir, While the Court of Appeal judgment in *R. v. Goodchild* (January 13) comes as no surprise to those of us who have always been sceptical of this interpretation of the law, it raises a number of issues which require resolution.

The ruling that the leaves of the cannabis plant are "cannabis" (under Class B drug) under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 is of little value so long as it remains undecided whether or not they constitute a "preparation or product containing cannabis derivatives."—Class A drug under the same Act. The common sense answer to this question is that to place cannabis leaves on the same level as heroin is to make nonsense of the whole scheme of classification which underlies the Act.

The alternative is to hold that cannabis leaves are not controlled under the Act at all. It does not seem to us that this raises any insuperable difficulties. Cannabis leaves are specifically excluded from the scheme of international control under the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotics of 1954, and were not controlled by any of the earlier British legislation; as Lord Wingham, speaking for the Conservative Govern-

lective interests today when even other group of employees seeks to grab what it can by these various means?

In a responsible society with a responsible government, such conflict need never arise. But in our country today, where Government supports only the claims made by organized trade unions, the only way in which professional men and women can ensure that their services will remain available to the public is by having powerful trade unions of their own. Internationally, as well as other bodies to watch over their ethics. Adding yet another layer of consultative machinery will solve nothing.

Yours etc.

J. E. H. HARRIS, President;
Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association,
The Old Court House,
London Road,
Ascot, Berkshire.

ment, said to the House of Lords on February 9, 1971, "the plant cannabis is not a controlled drug."

It is therefore particularly to be hoped that the Home Office and the Director of Public Prosecution will neither attempt to bring further prosecutions under Clases (with very dubious chances of success) nor bring unduly harsh amending legislation before Parliament.

At a time when the decriminalization of cannabis use is increasingly being adopted in many jurisdictions (including eight states of the United States at the latest count) would be particularly inappropriate for its introduction by the United Kingdom of yet more stringent controls, far beyond those required by our international obligations, especially if, as seems only too likely, the evidence of the obvious need for such measures is to be produced.

Cannabis leaves are undoubtedly the weakest of the cannabis drugs, the opportunity now presents itself for an invaluable social experiment in the toleration of what is, after all, the mildest intoxicant known to man.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. AITKEN,
for Release,
1 Elgin Avenue, W9.
January 13.

omies, universities' costings show very, and specialist analyses run by such institutions as the Marketing Board and ICI together provide a more complete, detailed and independent picture of bot-

totally the opinions which Mr. Casland lays down as self-evident truths.

But if it alone shows her view as extra-marital sex as immoral, immoral and degrading, Mr. Casland's argument is riddled with contradictions. For one thing she applies her demand for pre-marital chastity only to women, who must be "sober and virtuous" and "of which very many are by historical right" allowed to be raffish, profligate and vicious". Mr. Casland overlooks the implications of maintaining this double standard for the present scene, which requires the existence of sub-classes of the "good-time girls" of whom she writes so contemptuously.

When she postulates a direct line between vulgar, filthy, degraded pornography and a recent fashion in extra-marital sex (among women that is), if indeed she makes a distinction at all between the two, she ignores the long history of pornography, in which many of its most disastrous manifestations have

Christian names

From Mr. I. D. James

Sir, The stratched names and the frequency bear an almost similar thing to the annual review of the business journal your column (letters, January 6). Yet traditionalies hard, for this list comes from an index compiled about three years ago of about 6,500 persons for a genealogical survey of indentured servants who left Britain for the cotton plantations of Virginia and the sugar estates of the West Indies, circa 1654-1685.

John	94	Elizabeth	26
William	648	Mary	22
Thomas	607	Ann	21
Richard	457	Margaret	25
Robert	253	John	2
Edward	215	Sarah	3
James	189	Jane	3
George	177	Elizor	3
Henry	177	Alice	3
Francis	86	Katherine	3
Samuel	84	Susan	3
Hospi	82	Elizabeth	3

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
I. D. James,
Moberly Tower,
Burlington Street,
Manchester University,
Manchester.

Dating the Round Table

From Mr. John Flecher

Sir, Christmas viewing was enlightened by the Round Table programme and the idea of the period (mid-fourteenth century) of its construction was a notable application of the study of carpenter's joints together with radiocarbon

although Miss Cartland's historical past may have draped virgin romance, I strongly suspect that reality no have been somewhat more realistic.

Miss Cartland's ideas on women's role obviously sell her books, but like her fiction, they do not reflect real life, in which the qualities that make a woman a good wife are not necessarily the same as those which make men adore her.

Moreover, if I marry a successful man, I imagine that the traits in my character which help him to succeed will be independent of and distinct from those which he needs to be loved, adored, and shipped, cosseted and protected. May I add that, although I am particularly depraved, I have seen a certain amount of hard-core pornography in the gutter press bought Barbara Cartland novel in my life.

I remain, yours sincerely,
CAROL GILCHRIST,
Lady Margaret Hall,
Oxford.

of a Feast of the Round Table at Winchester in 1344. There is documentary evidence (summarized in *Archaeologia* for 1846) for Knights and Esquires attending to Banquets and General Jousts then held on January 19, 1344, and again in March 1344. Meanwhile construction in the Upper Ballroom of a large circular building to be called the Round Table was begun. The payment to the Prior of Merton for the Feast of the Round Table, referred to in Mr Brewin's letter (January 4), would appear to concern this building, rather than a single piece of furniture. It provides an example of how royal debts in those days sometimes remained unpaid for years. For after Edward invaded France in July, 1346, there is no further mention of the Feast of the Round Table, while the building was never completed. The Order of the Garter took its place.

The table now at Winchester is therefore well to be the one intended for the Round Table building at Windsor Castle and, if so, derived from oaks felled on the Prior of Merton's manor in 1344 or 1345. Perhaps, like the circular building, only the early stages in construction of the circular table were made before the warble plan was stopped. If so, transfer of the oaks to the timbers to Winchester would not have been difficult.

Yours truly,
JOHN FLETCHER,
Leverhulme Trust Fellow,
Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art,
Oxford University.
6 Keshla Road, Oxford.

11th-form colleges

by Mrs D. Cleere

Your Education Correspondent asks Mr. Shirley Williams to say what the Ministry of Education Conference (January 10) : "sixth-form or tertiary colleges are the tiddest and most economical solution for authorities that not yet reorganized their secondary schools".

1. Tower Hamlets we have found it seems to be a solution to small pupil groups in many of our 17 secondary schools and there is a before-and-after when a range of weeks is taught by volunteers in the constituent schools on a part-time basis. The pupils remain the rolls of their schools and attend the centre only for those subjects offered in their own school. The centre may be

an answer for urban areas with falling numbers of secondary school pupils.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY CLEERE,
The Division 5 Sixth Form Centre,
155, East India Dock Road, E14.

Worker participation

From the Secretary of the Association of County Councils

Sir, You print (January 6) a letter from Mr Derrick Williams stating, quite inaccurately, that the Education Act of 1944 specifically requires local education authorities to appoint representatives of their teaching staff to membership of education committees. As is well known in education administration, the 1944 Act, Schedule 1, Part II, paragraph 5, in fact states—

"Every education committee . . . shall include persons of experience in education and persons acquainted with the educational conditions prevailing in the area for which the committee acts".

As is apparent from the wording of the paragraph of the Schedule, this special arrangement—the need for which many today would seriously question—is not never was worker participation, or industrial democracy as such, even though there are representatives of the teaching staff, the main religious denominations, agriculture, commerce and some domestic industry, co-opted on to education committees as persons so defined by the statute.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. HETHERINGTON,
Eaton House,
66A Eaton Square, SW1,
January 10.

needed to disprove charges of profiteering against farmers", and lamenting the total absence of objective information about farmers' incomes. He argued that an examination of the state of agriculture based on "official" figures, university management figures, university management issues, probability, figures issued by companies which supply materials to farmers, would at least make available information on which sensible judgments could be based".

True, but there is no industry which is more fully or openly costed than agriculture. All the required data are clearly available, and have since been met. Information about farm incomes based upon government surveys, the NEU's 30-year-old farm accounts scheme, based on accountants' returns, information from provincial agricultural econ-

British agriculture than anywhere else in the world. These figures, and the latest White Paper on the state of agriculture, show that while some producers of some commodities—potatoes is an outstanding example—may have done very well through a combination of the weather and the law of supply and demand, the rest of the industry, played out by work and management expertise is not yet adequate, taking one year with another, to enable farmers to invest, in expansion, help to improve the food from our own resources. White Paper and savings. Further draughts on our balance of payments.

Yours sincerely,
MONTAGUE KEEN,
British Farmer and Stockbreeder
Limited,
Surrey House,
1 Threlkney Way, Sutton, Surrey.

Yet, for such an important archaeological relic, undue haste was inspired by the British geologists as a result of which the radiocarbon answer was based on only one analysis. As the answer included all corrections, even for the position of the sample on the board (by freeing information obtained and provided by an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer at Peasey, Oxford), it is as accurate as can be achieved at the present time; even so, the likely date could be in at least three decades on either side of 1330.

On the tree-ring side, the recent five dates of 14th century trees in your article (December 21, 1977) must also be an approximation in view of its derivation from a ring sequence ending in 1323.

There is nothing inconsistent therefore in firmly linking the timber with the formation by Edward I.

First radio commentary
From Mr Robert Hudson
Sir, Fifty years ago Captain H. B. Wesselman broadcast the first ever BBC radio commentary.
This was on the England v Wales rugby international at Twickenham on January 15, 1927. English supporters, making their way to Twickenham for Saturday's Celtic Cup match, may wish not only to remember a great radio pioneer, but also to take heart from the result of 50 years ago—England 11 Wales 0.
Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HUDSON,
BBC Head of Radio Outside Broadcasts, 1969-75,
Spinney Cottage,
Bernard's Heath,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Attitude to women in modern fiction

From Mr R. K. Smith
 Sir, Recently workers on national newspapers were presented with a booklet *Programme for Action*. It set out proposals for the introduction of new working arrangements and technology into the Fleet Street and Manchester newspaper offices.

On Wednesday night (January 12) a protest was made over an article which was written by one of *The Times*, subtitled "Featherbed tactics in Fleet Street condemned". The article was not complete but an edited version from a magazine *Index of Censorship*. It is strange that even in an edited version referring to the article was written with all its undertones were left in. We do not wish to be associated with criminal actions.

This is not the time for an obscure personality who has recently lost his editorship to blame everyone but himself.

Whenever action we, the printers, took over the accuracy of the article or our request for a disclaimer over the charge of sabotage, the media would make us wrong; the article was written in machine rooms with the charge of sabotage. Every dispute has two points of view and it is significant that all reporting on Thursday, including radio and television, only gave one point of view. We can find out the other side of the coin.

Was someone trying to prove a point?

K. P. SMITH,
 Father of the Chapel,
 for and on behalf of *The Times*
 NGA Machine Managers Chapel.

From the Director of Aims for Freedom and Enterprise
 Sir, The censorship dispute on *The Times* and *The Guardian*, and the Union of Post Office Workers' plans to interfere with communications to South Africa illustrate the point that this organization has been making for several years—that major threats exist in this country to the freedom of the press, radio and television and some communications generally.

We speak from bitter experience; I suppose no organization has had so much experience of overt and concealed censorship. In the 1960s we were one of the first customers to use the Post Office service to deliver newspapers. In 1967, however, it caused a strike on the grounds that the postman did not like our literature, and the Conservative Government suspended the service. In 1974, as a result of pressure by unions, a number of newspapers were forced to accept a new agreement, which said that there was a threat from the extremists in the trade unions. Our 1974 pamphlet *Banned* stressed the dangers.

In 1974 we pointed out that the House of Lords' debate on press freedom was censored for a week. All other House of Lords' *Hansards* appeared during that period, and the House could not discuss anything according to an industrial dispute. We reject this explanation.

There have, of course, been many cases of the contents of newspapers being affected by trade union pressure; the public are not aware of this. Although courageous newspapers like *Private Eye* have at times reported them.

So far radio and television have not been exposed to such pressures, although there have been isolated instances, such as the extraordinary refusal to allow a television camera team to make a film in South Africa on Baden Powell's childhood!

The grave dangers are exacerbated by the new approach of the Union of Post Office Workers, whose power is now being used to interfere in industrial disputes, to isolate particular countries of whom they disapprove. As it happens, I very much dislike South African apartheid, but I regard the three world war as being much greater from the Soviet Union and China. Nevertheless, I would reject Post Office workers having the right to determine whether I should be able to communicate with Communist countries.

What can be done? First, an ad-hoc party committee needs to be set up to examine the facts—the threats to communication and from whom they come. Second, we must absolutely reject the syndicalist idea that union members have a right to determine the content of books, films, newspapers and television and radio programmes.

Finally, the Union of Post Office Workers' conduct with its present approach, the monopoly powers must be taken away from the Post Office so that we have free mails in this country.

Yours faithfully,
 MICHAEL IVENS,
 5 Plough Place,
 Fetter Lane, EC4.

From Mr R. K. Morland
 Sir, Has the Union of Post Office Workers ever taken politically motivated action against the Soviet Union or its satellites?

Yes, but I have no plans to do so, can we assume that the totalitarian governments of these countries have the Union's seal of approval?

Yours faithfully,
 R. K. MORLAND,
 21 Church Street,
 Hampton, Middlesex.

From Miss Patricia Bishop
Sir, One hesitates to respond to the anachronistic illogic of Barbara Cartland (article, January 12), wanting instead to dismiss such irrational drivell with a shrug of the shoulders and a wry laugh. However, since this article has remained so long in the limelight by a prominent spread in *The Times*, it deserves comment, if not gaping wonder.

That Miss Cartland's novels sell well demonstrates nothing but an appealing lack of discrimination in the contemporary reader. It makes no comment about public morality, as Miss Cartland would like to suggest, although it may make some comment about the widespread lack of justice and respect for women in today's society.

It is not the least of our faults to be our equals, not to objectified beings who need, according to Miss Cartland, to be cuddled, cuddled, and guarded, like a favourite pet, a small child, or a mental defective.

It is also true that Miss Cartland has a rather one-sided notion of morality, coupled with bad psychology and even worse anthropology. She parodies a sincere attempt to link links between fashionableness, and when she sanctions mendacious standards of conduct: i.e. promiscuous freedom for men and close confinement for women, she ignores the complex psychological motivation in declaring that women want love and that men consume sex as they would food. In so doing, she mouths only more degrading, one-dimensional views of women, and the nature of matrimonial societies and the varied roles of women in history is also betrayed.

One had thought that such empty and mindless banalities as "There is no man who steps in the heart of every woman is a yearning to be courted and wooed," had been buried years ago along with other limping myths about male dominance and female passivity. Miss Cartland's attitude toward women she persists in assuming that they want and need to be defined in terms of men and their relations to men, and not as independent human beings.

PATRICIA BISHOP,
21 Lavie Road,
Linthoune, Glasgow.

From Miss Bridget Kenner
Sir, I write as one of the "very inferior women" of recent years to whom Barbara Cartland refers in her article on "Why Virginity is becoming fashionable once more" (January 12). My immediate reaction on reading the article was to ignore it as a bad joke and to assume that your other readers

formed the reverse side of the "high standards, noble ideas and decency" espoused by the superficial prudery of, in particular, the Victorian era.

But of course many people would reject the assumptions underlying Miss Cartland's view—class, narrow marital sex is disgusting; those men want their brides to be virgins above all else, and will indeed worship them if they are; or that if this is so, women will find it adequate inducement to deny their sexuality. For, contrary to Miss Cartland's dogmatic assumptions concerning medieval impossibilities and what lies "deep in the heart of every woman", a woman can choose to sleep with men, whether one or many, because she genuinely enjoys doing so.

Ms Cartland never enters this possibility, and as a result, it is not clear why she advocates yielding up one's virginity in return for being "loved, adored, worshipped, courted and protected" (rather than euphemism for marriage) rather than "in return for a dinner or a dance", which she condemns as "a very cheap form of prostitution".

It is the former course inevitably preferable or simply a better bargain and a socially more acceptable form of prostitution?

Ms Cartland threatens women, if we pursue our reckless course, with the loss of one of our most precious assets. A demystification is precisely what we are seeking, for the flattering haze of the traditional romantic vision has always served to blur the otherwise starkly apparent injustices and inequalities women have suffered. I doubt whether any woman toiling under the double workload of an uninspiring unpaid factory or office job, and the unpaid task of looking after household and husband would accept such a sacrifice herself in Miss Cartland's description of the woman placed in a "secret shrine" where she is "worshiped, coaxed and protected".

It is wrote Barbara Cartland's glowing, best-selling prose, many of us are no longer content passively to inspire Shakespeare and Botticelli and cook their dinners. We have become aware that we can ourselves be active and protect our own, and essential part of this, sexually liberated.

Yours faithfully,
BRIDGET KENNER,
Wadhams College,
Oxford.

From Miss Carol Gluechist
Sir, With all due respect to Miss Cartland's gossamer age and sex, I think she should just get with the times. It was really "fashionable

Mr. Carrland, or at

From the President of the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association, Sir, The Joint Working Party on the Ethical Responsibilities of Doctors practising in the NHS deserves credit for identifying a fundamental problem: doctors with increasing strictness since 1948. Alas, their conclusions are idealistic rather than practical and there is some danger in suggesting that the profession shares its ethical responsibilities to patients with the state, albeit in the sphere of "macro-ethics" to the population in general.

Government, they say, has special responsibilities not to create ethical conflicts for doctors by pursuing political ends. But governments always do pursue political ends—as most recently with the Health Services Act, which was an overtly political measure that will not improve the health care of any one individual.

And the profession, the working party say, has a special responsibility not to create ethical conflicts

purely to further the advantage of its own members. Of course it has, but how otherwise than by legitimate trade union activities can the medical profession protect its collective interests today when every other group of employees seeks to grab what it can by these vast means?

In a responsible society with a responsible government, such conflicts need never arise. But in our country today, where Government supports only the claims made by organized trade unions, the only way in which professional men and women can ensure that their services will remain available to the public is by having powerful trade unions of their own interests as well as other bodies to watch over their ethics. Adding yet another layer of consultative machinery will solve nothing.

Yours etc,
J. F. RICKARDS, President,
Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association.
The Old Court House,
London Road,
Ascot, Berkshire.

1000

From Mr D. A. Aicken
Sir, While the Court of Appeal
judgment in R. V. Godchild (January
13) comes as no surprise to those
of us who have always advocated
this decriminalisation of the law,
it raises a number of issues which
require resolution.

The ruling that the leaves of the
cannabis plant are not "cannabis"
(a Class B drug under the Misuse
of Drugs Act 1973) is a ruling which
so long as it remains undecided
whether or not they constitute (as
also suggested by the prosecution)
a "preparation or product contain-
ing cannabinol derivatives"—
is a drug under the same Act.
The consequence of this ruling
question is that to place cannabis
leaves on the same level as heroin
is to make nonsense of the whole
scheme of classification which
underlies the Act.

It is therefore to be held that
cannabis leaves are not controlled
under the Act at all. It does not
seem to us that this raises any in-
superable difficulties. Cannabis
leaves are specifically excluded
from the scheme of international
control under the United Nations
Single Convention on Narcotic
Drugs 1953 and were not controlled
by any of the earlier British legis-
lation; as Lord Windlesham, speak-
ing for the Conservative Govern-

ment, said to the House of Lords on February 9, 1971, "the plant cannabis is not a controlled drug." It is therefore particularly to be hoped that the Home Office and the Director of Public Prosecution will not attempt to bring any further prosecutions under Class (with very dubious chances of success) nor bring unduly harsh amending legislation before Parliament.

A time when the decriminalization of cannabis use is increasingly being adopted in many jurisdictions (including eight states of the United States at the latest count) would be particularly inappropriate for the introduction by the United Kingdom of yet more stringent controls, far beyond those required by international obligations, especially if, as seems only too likely, no evidence of the objective need for such measures is to be produced.

Cannabis leaves are undoubtedly the weakest of the cannabis drugs, the opportunity now presents itself for valuable social experiments in the toleration of what is, after all, the mildest intoxicant known to man.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. AITKEN,
for Release,
1 Elgin Avenue, W9.
January 13.

enlivened by the Rou

From the Editor of the British
Farmer and Stockbreeder

Sir, I was dumfounded to read Hugh Clayton's article on January 10 ambiguously headed "Statistics needed to disprove charges of profiteering against farmers and lamenting the total absence of objective information about farmers' incomes. He argued that an examination of the state of agriculture based on "official figures," university management surveys of profitability, figures issued by companies which supply materials to farmers, would at least make available information on which sensible judgments could be based."

True, but there is no industry which is less fully or openly exposed to such scrutiny as the farming structure. All the requirements Mr Clayton lists have long since been met. Information about farm incomes based upon government surveys, the NFU's 30-year-old farm accounts scheme, based on accountants' returns, information from provincial agricultural econ-

omisers, universities' costings surveys, and specialist analyses run by such institutions as the MRC Marketing Board and ICI together provide a more complete, detailed and independent picture of both the state and the rewards of British agriculture than anywhere else in the world.

What these figures, and the latest White Paper on the state of agriculture, show is that while some products of some commodities—potatoes is an outstanding example—may have done very well through a combination of the weather and the law of supply and demand, the rewards of risk-taking, physical work and management expertise is not yet adequate, taking one year with another, to enable farmers to invest. In expansion, help to improve the Food from our own resources White Paper and save still further draughts on our balance of payments.

Yours sincerely,
MONTAGUE KEEN,
British Farmer and Stockbreeder
Limited,
Surrey House,
1 Throckley Way, Sutton, Surrey.

old, Catharine viewed the archaeological remains of the Rowley Tabor programme and to be able to identify the period (mid-fourteenth century) of its construction was a notable application of the study of carpentry joints together with radiocarbon and tree-ring analysis.

Yet, for such an important archaeological relic, underwritten by the BBC, the dendrochronological analysis as a result of which the radiocarbon answer was based on only one sample, and which included all corrections, even for the position of the sample on the board (by tree-ring information obtained and provided by Ian Gourlay of the Department of Forestry, Oxford) is as accurate as can be achieved at the present time; even so, the likely date could be in at least three decades on either side of 1336.

On the tree-ring side, the tentative date of 1336, quoted as precise in your article (December 21), must also be an approximation in view of its derivation from a ring sequence ending in 1323.

There is nothing inconsistent about the likely time of the Tabor with the formation by Edward I of

Yours truly,
JOHN FLETCHER,
Leverhulme Trust Fellow,
Research Laboratory for Archae-
ology and the History of Art,
Oxford University,
6 Keble Road, Oxford.

First radio commentary

From Mr Robert Hudson
Sir, Fifty years ago Captain H. B.
Welkman broadcast the first ever
BBC Radio commentary.
This was on the England v Wales
rugby international at Twickenham
on January 15, 1927. English
supporters, making their way
to the stadium for Saturday's Calcutta
Cup match, may wish not only
to remember a great radio pioneer, but
also to take heart from the results
of 50 years ago—England 11 Wales
9.
Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HUDSON,
BBC Head of Radio Outside
Broadcasts, 1969-75,
Spinney Cottage,
Bernards Heath,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

A brilliant foreign secretary whose premiership ended prematurely

Stock Exchange Prices

Gilts in the spotlight

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Jan 28. Contango Day, Jan 31. Settlement Day, Feb 8

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
Afore ye go

[illegible]

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 20 and 21

Record £1,250m ap stock aims to stabilize gilts yield

A further signal was given by the Government yesterday that it is anxious to maintain a steady pace in bringing down interest rates when it announces a record £1,250m offer of long-dated Government stock slightly above the rates of return obtainable in the gilt market just ahead of the announcement.

The announcement of the £1,250m stock came shortly after the Bank of England had indicated that its minimum lending rate will remain unchanged for time being at 14 per cent.

That MLR would be left unchanged for the moment had already been clearly signalled by the Bank through the way which it had provided assistance to the discount market in the week. But it is still widely expected that there will be a further cut in MLR, which has been coming in quarter point drops since it was raised to a crisis level of 15 per cent early in 1976.

The market also took the fact that the coupon on the new Treasury stock had been cut to 1 per cent as a clear sign of a trend to come over the next few months. The last long-dated stock, which was exhausted at the end of last week, carried a 1 per cent coupon and had been offered on a gross redemption yield of 15.4 per cent.

In the short term, however, a new stock—the largest single tranche of Government stock ever offered—is clearly designed to peg yields at the

longer end of the market. At the issue price of 96 per cent the gross redemption yield works out at 14.38 per cent.

After last year's experience, when the Government had to raise interest rates significantly to enable it to continue its heavy funding programme, the Government now appears to be aiming at a controlled reduction in yields to enable it to maintain a smooth pattern of funding for as long as possible—albeit that sales of stock totalling more than £6,000m since mid-September will already have covered its specific funding requirement for the 1976-77 financial year.

The major speculation now is whether this new long-dated "tap" stock will be followed by the issue of a new short-dated stock next week. The last issue of short-dated stock, Exchequer 123 per cent, 1981, was totally sold out on Thursday, when the £600m issue attracted applications of more than £1,000m.

Dealings in the new stock started yesterday and it immediately went to a substantial premium, closing at its best level of the day, £1 9/16 above the issue price at £97 13/16.

Other shorts were firm, but long-dated stocks slipped back after the announcement of the new 1993 issue to close with a fall of up to £1.

Meanwhile, conditions remained tight in the money markets, with overnight rates moving as high as 18 per cent and the Bank of England again providing provisionally heavy assistance over the weekend.

This week's £300m offering of Treasury Bills attracted applications totalling £2,311m.



Mr Brian Salmon (left) chairman of J. Lyons & Co., at yesterday's signing of the hotels deal, with Sir Charles Forte, chief executive of Trust Houses Forte.

Trust Houses adds the Westbury to its hotels

By Patricia Tidball

Trust Houses Forte announced yesterday that it is buying four hotels for more than £3m from the New York-based Knott Hotels Corporation. The hotels are the Westbury in New York and London, the International at Kennedy Airport and the Pickwick Arms in London. Collectively, the four have a total of 1,540 bedrooms.

The company has also now completed the takeover of 35 of J. Lyons hotels in Britain and Ireland effective from the end of this month. Due to be completed on January 1, the deal was delayed for what were said to be "technical reasons" and full details on how THF will finance this £27m deal are still awaited.

These "technicalities" are believed to have included provision for 400 of J. Lyons administrative staff employed

by Strand, the J. Lyons hotel subsidiary, which is now left with only one hotel, The Tower, in England, and three hotels abroad.

The staff have now been told that THF has agreed to offer over 200 people virtually identical jobs to those they hold with Strand. Some of the rest will be offered different jobs but with equal or better pay and conditions. The remainder will be offered short-term employment for up to four months.

The acquisition of the Strand hotels greatly increases THF's representation in central London where previously, although larger overall, it had lagged behind rival groups such as Grand Metropolitan, Aloisberg, Strand, and others.

THF now has 23,300 bedrooms in Britain, of which 14, containing 6,600 bedrooms, are in central London.

Protection deemed necessary for the survival of many industries NEDO chief urges curb on imports

By Tim Jones

Labour Staff

Sir Ronald McIntosh, director general of the National Economic Development Office, said yesterday that he would favour certain import restrictions in order to protect some home industries.

He mentioned electronics as an example of an industry that could disappear unless it was protected. "I would be very happy to see it buttressed by import restrictions", he said.

Sir Ronald, who was addressing a conference on industrial strategy called by the General and Municipal Workers' Union, believed it would "need a 10-year pull to get to grips with the basic problems" towards restoring Britain's industrial competitiveness.

"It needs joint action and a stable policy background with less chopping and changing than we have had over past years", he said. Changes in government should not be allowed to interfere with this objective.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, said the

Government's industrial strategy would be a long haul. Britain was "clearly past the stage" where it could hope to rely on macro-economic policies to get the economy right.

He outlined the decline in Britain's economic and social performance, which he said was worse in the United Kingdom than in other industrialized countries.

"The fact that the United Kingdom economy has performed relatively poorly over a long period is not in dispute", he said. "The performance of our manufacturing industry has been at the heart of these difficulties."

The recent pressures on the pound, the corrective measures the Chancellor had taken, the refusal of the world economy to recover quickly had all served to underline the importance of a flexible approach which could be adapted to changing circumstances.

"We have avoided the belief that industrial strategy was something that could be worked out at top level and

here which we have to overcome to demonstrate that the strategy is more than talk but can really change things. There is disappointment that the work is not linked more closely to planning agreements."

Both sides of industry should recognize their common interest in raising industrial efficiency, output and sales.

Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the GMWU, said: "I am rather perturbed that so many of the sector working parties, at the end of their first stage, came up with recommendations, which, in effect, amounted solely to a lobby to alter the price code."

"What the TUC recognizes is a few specific instances in which the price code might have to be relaxed, any blanket relaxation of the kind the SWPs were advocating is contrary to TUC and GMWU policy."

If it could curb SWPs from talking shops into provoking real action, whether at company, government or plant level, then the union would have made a real achievement.

No progress on Meriden aid request

By Derek Harris

A further exploratory meeting on putting together a rescue for the Meriden motor cycle cooperative, called by Mr Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Prime Minister's economic adviser, ended last night with few signs of progress.

Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, and his departmental advisers still appear to feel that the Government cannot put up a further £500,000 to enable the cooperative to buy trading and marketing assets from NVI Motorcycles.

The department apparently regards as a major additional contribution its offer to subordinate the £42m government loan to other creditors.

It has refused to advance a total of £1m as requested by the cooperative. The extra £500,000 is needed for development spending; but given the Government's loan subordination there are hopes this could be raised in the private sector or from other interested concerns such as Styr-Deimler-Puch, the Austrian automotive group.

Mr Dell sees growth in Iran barter deals

By Maurice Corina

Industrial Editor

A tired but cautious Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, yesterday returned from discussions in Iran and confirmed that civil exporters and contractors might have to do more business on an oil barter basis.

Admitting that the extent of Iran's interest in promoting oil-for-goods deals is not clear, Mr Dell said he had obtained the impression that certain big projects were likely to involve barter.

He said there was no reason why bartering oil to win business in Iran was a disadvantage; Britain was well equipped to undertake such business.

However, the British Government would want to consider various questions relating to the extension of barter trading to civil exports from the area of military business.

"If it is on a commercial basis, I would not see any objection," Mr Dell added, "but there are other factors which must be on a realistic commercial basis, whatever it means for the price of oil and goods sought."

Mr Dell, speaking shortly after flying back from a series of talks including the fifth session of the Anglo-Iran Joint Ministerial Economic Commission and an audience with the Shah—claimed that Iran was fairly confident of continuing, with a rate of growth in double figures.

His impression, however, was that the Iranians wanted a steady, more manageable rate. There would be some change in priorities, and the emphasis would be on infrastructure, leading industrial development (excluding oil, gas, and steel) to its private sector. A doubling of Britain's exports, now £500m a year, was not impossible over the next five years.

Mr Dell emphasized that a great deal of business would be

FNFC calls on Bank after £31.3m loss

By Christopher Wilkins

First National Finance Corporation, the secondary bank built up by Mr Pat Matthews, who resigned last year, has suffered yet another heavy loss. From a net deficit of £17m at the half-year stage, the selling company has now reported a full year loss to the end of October of £31.3m.

To avoid the virtual elimination of its remaining capital, FNFC has also had to go back to the support group of the Bank of England and the clearing banks for additional help.

The support group has agreed to treat £12m of interest owing on advance loans as interest on deferred loans. The effect of this technical change is important since without it FNFC's residual capital would have been reduced to only £14m—a tiny base to support an overall balance sheet total of £285m.

As it is, the company's published capital is £15.4m, down from £25.1m the year before. But there remains a deficit on shareholders' funds of £72.3m compared to one of £41m the year before and FNFC is now £24.3m in arrears with interest payments.

The loss is the third running to be declared by FNFC. It follows a net deficit in 1974-75 of £79.5m and the year before that one of £9.5m. Moreover, the company forecasts further difficulties in the present year.

Its problems were exacerbated by the sharp rise in interest rates, and it has already provided £1.5m to take account of the further rise since its year-end. The company notes that the business outlook remains "obscure".

Adverse trading factors have included the difficulty of selling securities at the right time and price, chiefly because of continued problems in the property market, and the decline of the pound.

apan expected to defer new emission controls on European cars until 1981

By Peter Hasehurst

Kyoto, Jan 14

After two days of hard bargaining with Japanese government officials, representatives on the European Economic Community declared tonight they were hopeful that Japan would postpone until 1981 the introduction of its new 1978 emission control laws on imported European cars.

Herr Horst Kreuzer, leader of the EEC delegation, said he expected that the Japanese officials would report to ministers next week the cabinet would take a decision before the end of the month. Herr Kreuzer, who is head of the European Community's Far East Division, added: "He was aware Japanese could not come to a decision, but from the technical talks today and yesterday we were confident that their quest for a leeway of three to four years would receive a durable consideration when cabinet meets."

In April next year Japan will reduce the strictest emission control laws in the world,

which will almost bar European car producers from participating in the Japanese market.

At present the regulations limit exhaust emissions to 0.6 grams of nitrogen oxide per kilometre for light cars. On April 1 next year the figure will be reduced to 0.25 grams per kilometre for new cars and existing models will have to conform to the strictest standards by April 1979.

The European Community—which exported only 26,500 cars to Japan last year in contrast to the 500,000 Japanese cars absorbed by Europe in 1976—has protested that the new emission standards amount to a new non-tariff barrier.

After meeting Japanese officials, led by Mr Michio Hashimoto, a senior director of Japan's environment agency, during the past two days, Herr Kreuzer said he was extremely hopeful that existing European models would be given a leeway of four years, and new European cars would only have to conform to the standards three years after the regulations come into force.

Personally, I think we will

be given a unique three-year period for both existing and new models", he declared.

Japanese government officials also informed the EEC delegation that the testing of car exports to Japan could be carried out in Europe. Herr Kreuzer said: "We asked the Japanese last year if they were prepared to test European cars in Europe, because the former practice of inspecting cars in Japan was considered to be a non-tariff barrier."

"They agreed to send a mission of inspectors to examine testing facilities in Europe in October last year. But we were not provided with the results."

"During the last two days we were gratified to learn that the results were positive, and all tests of European car exports to Japan will be carried out in Europe from April this year."

Quantifiable tests will be carried out by Japanese inspectors and non-quantifiable tests will be carried out by European inspectors, who will travel to Europe.

"This is a very positive step. We were also informed that the programme to provide Europe with Japanese inspectors had already been included in the draft budget."

Leyland storing cars in delivery strike deadlock

By E. W. Shakespeare

British Leyland faces problems at two of its largest Midlands car plants as a continuing strike by car delivery drivers. Leyland is storing cars within the plants, but space is limited and production may have to be cut soon.

No completed vehicles are being moved out of the Rover and Triumph assembly plants at Solihull and Coventry because of protest action by drivers employed by a contractor, James Car Deliveries. The delivery company handles shipments of about 85 per cent of vehicles made at the two plants.

The trouble arises from Leyland's acceptance of pressure from its dealers and franchise holders to allow other delivery companies access to the Midlands plants.

In brief

Lisbon stock exchange to reopen

From Richard Wigg

Lisbon, Jan 14

Lisbon stock exchange, closed down after the 1974 revolution, is to be reopened for all kinds of transactions on February 23, the Socialist government announced last night.

The step generally received a welcome from Portuguese business circles. It also raised hopes among those holding shares in the nationalized sector, who until now have been unable to sell.

Dr Mario Soares, the Prime Minister, gave a pledge when he took office. Reuters' index closed yesterday at a record 1,587.4 (previously, 1,585.4).

In political terms it is seen

as a sign of restoring a competitive market economy in Portugal.

Canberra loans ban

Australia is to restrict overseas borrowings by Australian companies from January 17. Overseas loans of less than two years are banned, and companies borrowing for more than two years for most purposes will have to lodge a deposit with the Reserve Bank, equal to about 25 per cent of the loan.

France to hold petrol prices down for month

The French government has refused to allow the price of petroleum products to be increased before mid-February,

sources at the Industry Ministry said yesterday, despite the rise in oil prices agreed recently by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The government is waiting until oil loaded in Opec countries arrives at French refineries before it fixes the size of the rise. The difference in the crude price rise by some Opec members also made fixing a level difficult.

Coffee plea rejected

President Alfonso Lopez, of Colombia, who called for a special meeting of coffee-producing countries to agree to a price freeze, has been turned down by Brazil, apparently under international pressure, informed sources said in Bogotá yesterday.

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RELIANCE MUTUAL

1,500 more jobs at Linwood

Chrysler is going ahead with plans to recruit 1,500 more workers at its Linwood plant in Scotland, despite union opposition.

In letters to the 6,500 labour force at Linwood, the company said double shift working would start on April 18. However, 3,000 Transport and General Workers' Union men at the plant have refused to agree to double shift working unless they are guaranteed work for two years and improved lay-off payments.

The company said in the letter it was vital that production on their new small car, code-named 424, should start at Linwood this year.

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
AFV 5p to 27 1/2p	Berry Wiggins 3p to 31 1/2p
Decra 5p to 26 1/2p	Cap & Counties 2 1/2p to 10 1/2p
Dunlop 5p to 51 1/2p	Dimplex 4 1/2p to 7 1/2p
East Dags 4 1/2p to 26 1/2p	ERF 3 1/2p to 40 1/2p
Copeng Couis 10p to 25 1/2p	Harmony 5p to 26 1/2p
Hickson Welch 10p to 33 1/2p	Kloof 1 1/2p to 36 1/2p
Lee Cooper 6p to 56 1/2p	Libanon 10p to 23 1/2p

Equities were subdued. Gilt-edged securities fell back in late trading. Sterling closed five points lower at \$1.7110. The "effective devaluation" rate was 43.1 per cent. Gold closed 50 cents lower at

Pat of Aust	10p to 24 1/2p
Rand & Whites 5p to 99 1/2p	
Rand Select 15p to 41 1/2p	
Saint John 5p to 8 1/2p	
Sumner, F. 1p to 8 1/2p	
Travis & Arnold 11p to 11 1/2p	
Vantona 8p to 86 1/2p	

\$131.625 an oz. SDR-5 was 1.15900 on Thursday, while SDR-6 was 0.677350. Commodities: Reuters' index closed yesterday at a record 1,587.4 (previously, 1,585.4). Reports, pages 22 and 23

THE POUND

Bank	Bank
Australia 5 1/2p	1.57
Austria 50p	78.29
Belgium 65.50	62.50
Canada 1.77	1.72
Denmark 10.45	10.05
Finland 6.70	6.45
France 6.77	6.45
Germany 4.26	4.04
Greece 73.50	69.50
Hongkong 8.35	7.90
Italy 1610.00	1520.00
Japan 325.00	500.00
Netherlands 4.46	4.24
Norway 9.34	8.98
Portugal 59.00	55.00
S Africa 1.08	1.06
Spain 121.00	113.00
Sweden 7.52	7.17
Switzerland 4.43	4.21
US \$ 1.75	1.70
Yugoslavia 34.25	32.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes 207.45 implied on Thursday. Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

British Rail in tough talks on oil freight prices

By Michael Bally

Tough negotiations are taking place between British Rail and the oil industry over renewal of oil freight contracts entered into in the Beeching era 10 years ago at what BR privately admits were over-generous prices.

The railways are looking for sharply improved profitability rather than a big expansion in carryings, now about 17 million tonnes a year.

One 10-year contract has already been signed, and yesterday Phillips Petroleum signed on similar lines.

Negotiations are under way or about to start with several other of BR's customers which include Shell, BP, Esso, Amoco, Conoco, Gulf, and Elf.

In terms of value oil and petroleum are one of BR's smaller freight businesses, worth around £19m last year.

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Great Central Railway 21

PROPERTY GROWTH ASSURANCE
Group funds under management exceed £80 millions

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Pensions

Do you know when you joined your scheme?

When your pension comes to be worked out by your pension scheme managers, the amount you are to receive will normally depend on both your pay and your length of service. I have considered in recent weeks how "pay" for pension purposes may differ from the "pay" you actually receive: so, too, may your service for pension purposes differ from the actual length of time you spend working for your employer.

The commonest difference is the exclusion of short periods at the beginning or end. I referred some weeks ago to the variations in practice about the date employees enter schemes. There is no reason why credit should not be given for a period of service before you actually enter and start paying contributions, but many schemes only count the length of time during which you belong to the scheme.

In some schemes, you may be admitted for the purpose of death benefits as soon as you join, but not for pension purposes until some later date. If this is the case, it shows that the scheme authorities and the employer have thought about the problem, and this may have led to the inclusion of the extra period for pension purposes too. On the other hand, there are schemes in which you are admitted to the scheme in this position which count service only from the date of entry for pension purposes.

There are two ways in which these excluded periods may arise. Many schemes, for administrative reasons, admit members only on a fixed date each year. There will then be a period of anything up to a year—how long is a matter of chance—from the date of entry to the employer's service up to the annual entry date for the scheme.

As the period in question cannot be more than a year, and it is easier for the scheme to ignore it, it has been quite common practice to do so. If your scheme provides one sixth of final pay for each year of service, and everyone retires on £3,000 a year, members lose on average £25 pension out of a possible £2,000; but if you are unlucky, you may lose almost £50.

The same sort of thing may also happen at the end of your service, however. Many schemes count service only up to the annual entry date immediately preceding retirement—again, on the grounds of administrative convenience: it means that all calculations for the scheme can be done once a year.

The result, however, is the exclusion of another period of up to a year. Again, the average loss, in the example above, is £25, but if you are unlucky it could be nearly £50. If you join just after the annual entry date—perhaps because you change jobs at the end of a week rather than at the end of a calendar month—and you retire, falls just before the annual entry date, you could lose nearly £2 a week.

You will be unlucky if you come off quite as badly as this, not only because it means you will have had bad luck in both respects, but also because in most schemes members retire on the first day of a month, and the annual entry date is usually also the first day of a month—so the maximum loss is 11 months. But the possible

loss begins to look big enough to worry about.

Some schemes give an extra year if the two periods—at the beginning and end—add up to a year or more. This helps, of course, and limits the loss in our example to under £1 a week.

When the new state scheme comes in in 1978 it is likely that more schemes (if they decide to contract out) will admit employees for pension purposes as soon as they join the firm, but the loss of part of a year just before retirement is less likely to be corrected.

In some schemes you have to wait longer than the next annual entry date before being admitted. Sometimes there is a minimum age; sometimes there is a qualifying length of service, commonly a year or two.

You may be credited retrospectively with this period, once you qualify for entry, but you may not.

The position here is not dissimilar from that at the time a scheme is first started. Then everyone eligible for membership enters although they will already have some service with the employer. The difference in this case is that for pension purposes service will vary widely in duration, up to quite long periods for the older employees. For these particularly, therefore, it is a matter of considerable importance whether the scheme provides for pension purposes includes service before the scheme started.

When the form of the scheme is being discussed, it is usual to try to do something to help employees in this situation. Some schemes give full credit for service already completed; some give a limited credit, either allowing a reduced rate for earlier years, or putting a maximum on the number of years to count. Where no allowance is made, it is generally because the cost would be too great, and the choice is between not having a scheme at all, and allowing only years of membership of the scheme to count, possibly with the hope of doing something about this later.

A sensible compromise is often to allow credit, perhaps at a reduced rate, but to cut back the normal scale from, say, one-sixtieth for each year to one-eighth. At a later date, it may be possible to increase this level again, before it affects the younger employees.

I have explained in recent articles how deductions or exclusions from pay may dramatically affect the amount of pension you can expect. So too—although not to the same extent—may the exclusion of part of your service, especially if you do not work very long for the employer in question.

If all these aspects are favourable a scheme which looks quite modest—with say 1 per cent of total pay for each year of service, with the employer may yield a larger pension than an apparently generous scheme, providing a sixth of "pay" for each year's "service", if "pay" and "service" are both subject to deductions or exclusions. Definitions may seem like legal small print, and not very exciting reading, but in the case of your pension scheme it is worth while making the effort.

Eric Brunel

Unit trusts

A hand-picked portfolio of funds

Investment management is a mixture of research, timing and luck. No one can do much about the last of these, which is in the lap of the gods, but research and timing are a more matter of fact affair.

Most unit trust groups have their own research and investment analysis departments and like all other institutional investors, they make extensive use of the more fundamental research conducted by stockbrokers.

The individual fund manager's real skill, therefore, lies in his timing—which incidentally is equally relevant to selling shares as to buying them.

As a rather light-hearted exercise, I have asked members of the top 10 unit trust groups (measured objectively by the size of funds under management) to contribute their skill and expertise, not to mention luck, by nominating their choice for one tenth of a unit trust portfolio.

I am assuming that the portfolio has been designed for a modest investor with £10,000, who has heard of all the advantages of unit trusts but does not have any particular investment requirement other than a good capital performance and some expectation of rising income.

It is likely that such a novice would be attracted to the big names in the unit trust industry. But he would find that if he approached the groups directly none of the managers would



Brian Banks, managing director of Britannia Property can come right.



Brian Peppercall, managing director of Tyndall Overseas support for International Earnings.



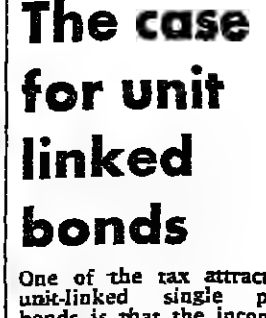
Audrey Head, managing director of Hill Samuel Managers: Financial more depressed than others.



David Hopkinson, investment director of M & G: Active management for Recovery.



Tim Simon, chairman of Target: picking second-line equities for Equity.



David Maitland, managing director of S & P: United Kingdom Equity for main-line shares.

A hand-picked portfolio of funds

If in doubt, take professional advice. It is the standard and sometimes all too easy guidance given to people who want to know what to do with their money, and, of course, it begs the question: how good are the professionals?

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It is likely that such a novice would be attracted to the big names in the unit trust industry. But he would find that if he approached the groups directly none of the managers would

give him a straight recommendation of a fund which they thought would do best during 1977.

So we have saved this hypothetical investor what would be, for him, the futile exercise of trying to write to the management groups; and, what is more, we have obtained the information he wants: which funds in their individual stable managers recommend for 1977?

Looking down the list one is immediately struck by the conformity among the managers. With one exception all the funds nominated are United Kingdom-oriented (in sharp contrast to the year-end of last year) with second-line shares and the financial sector attracting most of the votes.

After the strong recovery in the stock market, led as always by blue chip shares (major and

secure companies), it is natural to find that the emphasis is turning towards the second-line shares. These are the companies that investors, feeling that they have missed the boat with the market leaders, will almost inevitably consider.

To the extent that there are enough punters sharing this philosophy, it is equally almost inevitable that they should show a burst of speed sooner or later this year.

The only danger, as Mark St Giles, director of Allied Hambro, points out in passing, is that these smaller companies to perform better in the latter stage (my italics) of a bull market.

In a category similar to that of the Allied Hambro second-line shares fund are also the choices of David Hopkinson, investment director for M & G, and Tim Simon, chairman of Target.

Even though M & G's Recovery fund is now standing near its "high", Mr Hopkinson is still enthusiastic about this small fund, which in its early days was irreverently known as the "muck fund". Its size makes it possible to manage it actively.

Mr Simon is looking for a "middle of the road" fund, again with the emphasis on second-line stocks, which, as he rightly points out, it is the job of fund managers to pick.

David Maitland, managing director of Save & Prosper, also sticks close to the domestic equities theme, but does not narrow down his choice to second-line stocks. "The main-line United Kingdom market is a good bet," he says. For speculation, however, he widens his choice to include the group's United States Growth fund.

It is not altogether surprising to find that the clearing banks and the merchant banks which are included in the list of the top 10 unit trust groups should unerringly plump for the financial sector. Since the secondary banking collapse, financial shares have been depressed and have not really played any part in the general market recovery.

Lower interest rates and the general improvement in overall economic circumstances are behind the support for these trusts, although it must be admitted that there is also some of the gambler's "every dog has his day" belief behind the choices, too.

The odd men out in the portfolio are the selections from Brian Banks, managing director of Britannia, who has chosen the Property fund as a sweetener based on recovery prospects, although it is fair to point out that had it been a solo investment he would have gone for the group's Income & Growth fund.

Kenneth Plummer, investment manager at Lloyds has chosen the bank's Second Unit Trust because of the protection against uncertainties given by its 30 per cent overseas stake. Perhaps the most interesting choice comes from Brian Peppercall, the managing director of Tyndall. It is the group's International Earnings fund.

As its name suggests, it goes for shares which gain much of their income overseas. These shares did well last year, but Mr Peppercall thinks that they are still attractive.

But much more novel is his argument that these internationally known companies are likely to be supported by foreign investors as well as United Kingdom shareholders.

Margaret Stone

THE MANAGERS' UNIT TRUST PORTFOLIO

Management group	Fund	Nominated by	Offer price p	Yield %	Reasons for choice
Save & Prosper	UK Equity	David Maitland	35.7	5.04	Mainline UK market a good bet
M & G	Recovery	David Hopkinson	152.3	8.26	Actively managed in second-line companies
Barclays Unicorn	Financial	Ken Storey	49.5	6.04	Has underperformed for two years
Britannia	Property	Brian Banks	9.1	3.96	After being out of favour could come very much right
Allied Hambro	2nd smaller cos	Mark St Giles	25.2	8.53	Smaller companies for latter stage of bull market
Hill Samuel	Financial	Audrey Head	75.6	8.09	Recovery as sector has been more depressed than others
Tyndall	Intl earnings	Brian Peppercall	201.0	6.00	Shares still attractive; overseas investment interest
Target	Equity	Tim Simon	31.4	7.56	Interest switched to second-line equities
Lloyds Bank	Second	Kenneth Plummer	43.7	3.31	30% overseas will provide insulation
NatWest	Financial	Eric Barnes	31.7	5.09	Swings and roundabouts recovery

Taxation

Financial problems of a broken marriage

A break-up of marriage invariably brings with it financial as well as emotional problems. Just how much income should be paid by the husband for the maintenance of his wife (or former wife) and children is one of the immediate concerns.

If the parties cannot agree the courts will have to decide but, whatever the figures arrived at, both parties will need to understand the tax ramifications.

Once a divorce or separation has taken place each is treated as a single person and will be given the single personal allowance. For this purpose husband and wife are separated if there is a separation court order or deed, or if they are separated in such circumstances that it is likely to be permanent.

If the marriage ends during the tax year (which is more likely than a day April 5 perhaps) the rules are that the husband retains the higher marriage allowance for that year. If the wife has been working before the break-up, her earnings will have attracted the wife's earned income relief.

Also she will be entitled to the full single personal allowance against her income from the end of the marriage to the following April 5. This assumes that there is no wife's earnings election in force for that year. If there is, the single personal allowance given to each will remain unchanged.

The wife's income up to the date of the end of the marriage is treated as belonging to the husband (unless the wife's

earnings election is in force, in which case only the wife's unearned income is deemed to belong to the husband). In his tax return for that year he must include his own income for the full year in the usual way and his wife's income up to the date of the divorce or separation.

After that date the woman becomes a taxpayer in her own right and will have to submit her own tax return to include income for the remainder of the year up to the following April 5. This income, whether earned or unearned, is taxed as her own.

Child allowances can give rise to problems, because the allowance for each child can be claimed, no matter who maintains the children. The tax office will accept whatever arrangement is agreed between the two parties.

They may agree that one of them retains the wife's allowance or, alternatively, that each will claim a certain proportion of the whole. If they cannot agree the tax office will apportion the allowance according to the contributions made by each towards the maintenance and education of the children.

One important point to note here: the taxpayer will ignore contributions made by the payer which are tax deductible. This means that where the husband makes alimony or maintenance payments under a legally binding agreement (discussed below) they are disregarded by the Inland Revenue when apportioning child allowance, the reason

being that he gets tax relief on the full gross amount of the payments.

The additional personal relief for children (£250 for the present tax year) can be claimed by a separated or divorced parent provided he or she is entitled to child allowance for a resident child (or would be entitled if the child income limit did not apply).

A husband who gets the married personal allowance for the year in which the divorce or separation takes place will be entitled to the relief if both parents are eligible, the relief will be apportioned between each in the proportion agreed between them.

If they cannot agree, the tax office will make the allocation in the same way as for the child allowance.

For the year in which the marriage breaks up the husband will get the proportion of child allowances up to the date of separation and for the remaining part of the year the balance will be allotted to one, or apportioned between both parties.

Turning to the tax aspects of the alimony and maintenance payments it is necessary to know whether the payments are voluntary or made under a legally binding agreement, or a combination of both; what are the amounts involved and, finally, are they payable to the wife or direct to the children?

If the payments are voluntary they are not tax deductible so far as the payer is concerned, neither are they taxable on the recipient. However, to the extent that the voluntary payments cover maintenance of

the children, the husband will have a claim for the whole or part of the child allowances (as discussed above).

If the payments are made under a legally binding agreement (commonly a deed or court order), the payer gets tax relief on the gross amount and conversely the gross amount is treated as taxable income of the recipient. The procedure is that the tax at the basic rate (25 per cent) is deducted at source.

The gross amounts are also deductible in arriving at the husband's higher rates of tax, and the investment income surcharge.

The wife (or former wife) receives a net income as awarded, which means that not only will it be taxed at the higher rates if her total income is sufficiently high, but it will attract the investment income surcharge as well.

However, there is an exemption from the surcharge for the first £1,000 of investment income, and also the first £1,000 of maintenance payments received each year is disregarded as investment income.

An important point to note here is that if the payments are made under the agreement to be payable to the wife for the maintenance of the children they are treated as the wife's income and not the children's. They will thus attract the higher rates of tax and the sur-

charge if the wife's total income is sufficiently high.

On the other hand, if they are payable to the children direct they are taxable as the children's income. Bearing in mind that each child is entitled to the tax-free single personal allowance of £735, there are obvious tax advantages here. Again, there is the possibility of saving tax at the higher rates and at the surcharge rates.

Payment to the child direct may cancel out the child allowance because of the child income limit, but presumably (and I put it this way as there is no law on the subject yet) this will become less important in future years in view of the proposed fading out of child allowances in favour of child benefit.

Small maintenance payments (that is, £12 per week or £52 a month) to the wife or direct to the children will have to be made gross. Nonetheless, the payer will get the tax relief and the recipient will be assessed (technically under case III of schedule D) to tax if her total income brings her into the tax bracket.

It frequently happens that the court order payments are augmented by the husband making voluntary payments as well. The voluntary payments are not tax deductible, but if they are made for the maintenance and education of the children they will count as contributions for child allowance purposes.

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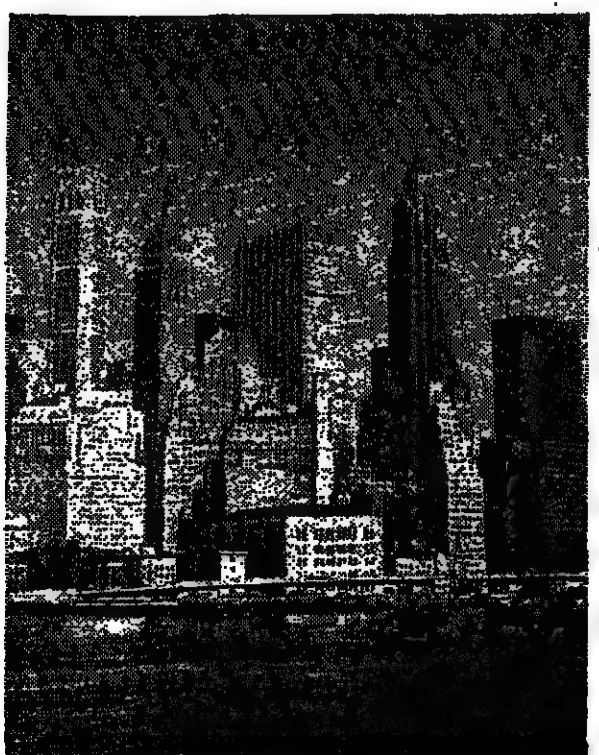
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Vera Di Palma

John Drummond

The investment potential of North America



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Unit trust performance

UNIT TRUSTS: Growth and Specialist funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unitholder index 1976, change from January 1, 1976: +1.5%; 1975, change from January 1, 1975: +1.5%; 1974, change from January 1, 1974: +1.5%; 1973, change from January 1, 1973: +1.5%; 1972, change from January 1, 1972: +1.5%; 1971, change from January 1, 1971: +1.5%; 1970, change from January 1, 1970: +1.5%; 1969, change from January 1, 1969: +1.5%; 1968, change from January 1, 1968: +1.5%; 1967, change from January 1, 1967: +1.5%; 1966, change from January 1, 1966: +1.5%; 1965, change from January 1, 1965: +1.5%; 1964, change from January 1, 1964: +1.5%; 1963, change from January 1, 1963: +1.5%; 1962, change from January 1, 1962: +1.5%; 1961, change from January 1, 1961: +1.5%; 1960, change from January 1, 1960: +1.5%; 1959, change from January 1, 1959: +1.5%; 1958, change from January 1, 1958: +1.5%; 1957, change from January 1, 1957: +1.5%; 1956, change from January 1, 1956: +1.5%; 1955, change from January 1, 1955: +1.5%; 1954, change from January 1, 1954: +1.5%; 1953, change from January 1, 1953: +1.5%; 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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Short tap that never was but latecomer long cools ardour

Gilt continued to seal the limelight as the easing of the credit squeeze and the prospect of lower interest rates brought a brisk trade, especially in the pre-lunch session.

The new 12½ per cent stock, originally intended as a short "tap" but oversubscribed, ended £11 above the issue price of £961, while late in the day, dealings were suspended for a quarter of an hour before the announcement of the new £1.250m long "tap" stock.

Earlier, profit-taking and an unchanged MLR—some had expected a token quarter-point cut—had lowered most prices with "shorts" and mediums closing at around overnight levels and long dates, nervous ahead of the new "tap", lower by around three-eighths. After hours trading saw some switching to the shorter end of the range.

By contrast, equities were very subdued, with most stocks managing to hold on to small gains in the face of end of account profit-taking. By the close, the FT Index, 2.3 ahead at 10 am, was just 0.6 better at 363.9.

Dealers take a bullish view of next month's figures from Manchester Ship Canal and would not be surprised if pre-tax revenue more than doubled to around £4m. The prospect of a dividend of over 20p gross, against 19.48p, has stirred interest and the shares have risen 1½p in a week to close at 100p last night.

This left it just 1.4 lower over the week and 9.2 up for an "eventful" account.

The immediate future for equities remains uncertain, but Monday's trade figures may point the way, at least for the short run.

Among the "blue chips", returns were very mixed with gain of 4p to 380p for Beecham and one of 2p to 297p for Fisons. But the other side the coin had Unilever 6p lower at 420p, ICI just a penny at 347p and BAT Industries 4p to 265p after a "sell" recommendation.

In shipping, speculative interest was directed again into common brokers, better by 5p to 178p and Reardon Smith ordinary which closed 12p to the good at 180p. An active P & O ended a point easier at 121p but there was some light demand for both Furness Withy 3p to 217p and British & Commonwealth 1p to 220p.

Over in electricals, interim figures from Thorn were more in line with most expectations and the "A" shares

finished 2p lower at 208p. Farnell responded to comment with a jump of 3p to 83p, but Ever Ready closed at an unmoved 124p.

The engineering pitch saw some firmness, the best being APV, up 5p to 275p, and Birmid 31p to 61p. But others to go ahead included GKN 1p to 284p, Davy Ashmore 2p to 156p and Glynwed 11p to 86p.

Over in buildings, Travis & Arnold continued to go ahead on speculative interest accompanied by vague bid talk. The rise yesterday was 11p to 112p, making a jump over the five days of 28p. But AP Cement, another strong at the moment because of its export orders, were unchanged at 164p, but still 11p to the good over the week. Other firm building spots were BPE 1p to 121p and Hestock Johnson 1p to 82p.

In the oil sector, BP closed just 2p off at 792p, very much in line with the market. Shell continued to benefit from its tax agreement with Royal Dutch and added 2p to 470p, while Oil Exploration suffered again on the news of a plugged well. The loss yesterday was 3p to 93p, making a drop of 11p in the two days since the news came through.

North Sea potential was good for a rise of 3p to 95p for Cawoods while, Lasmo, hoping for good news on the Ninian Field production, added 3p to 280p.

In bids, C. & W. Walker lost 3p to 110p after news of the offer withdrawal, while Kimpber put on 6p to 30p after terms from Guinness.

Interest rates hopes put the spotlight on property shares, but Capital & Counties lost 2½p to 10p after a pre-tax loss and a dismal settlement.

But brighter spots were to be found in Land Securities, up 4p to 149p, Bernard Sunley 2p to 100p, Great Portland 2p to 210p and, best of all, Hammerson "A", which firmed another 8p to 333p, making a gain of 11p over the week.

On a generally weak insurance pitch, Hogs Robinson lost a further penny to 172p after figures earlier in the week, but

Hambro Life proved a firm exception with a rise of 2p to 187p.

In the light of events, the banks themselves were surprisingly subdued with tuppenny losses from Barclays 270p, Lloyds 220p and National Westminster 230p.

Up went Bouthorpe by 3p to 41p, the electrical and electronic component group that draws more than half its earnings from abroad and hoisted interim pre-tax profits by 43 per cent to a record £2.58m. Last October the directors were supremely confident. This good going may explain gossip of a change in the group's relationship with a Los Angeles electronic group, Deutsch, which in the last accounts was shown to have 11.1 per cent of the equity.

The firmest was Midland which managed to hold on to its overnight 272p. Some helpful comment pushed up Porter Chadburn 4p to 62p.

Hickson & Welch continued to benefit from figures and put on another 10p to 335p. Two others with figures were Vitatex 28p and Turner Manufacturing 56p and both unchanged.

In after hours trading, there was a mixed reaction to the new long "tap" in gilts. Long dates issues weakened a further three-quarters of a point, but "shorts" benefited to show further gains of around a quarter or so.

The new short "tap" finished at the top, with a premium of £19.15. In equities, Lamson Industries attracted interest at 53p, up 3p, and Thoro "A" halved its earlier loss to 2p.

Equity turnover on January 13 was £65.54m (14,068 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were ICI, Shell, Barclays, BP, EMI, BAT Dfd, BAT Ind, P & O, Tricentrol, National Westminster, Royal, MEPC, Land Securities, Lonrho, GEC, Common Brothers, Reardon ordinary, Thoro "A", Pauls & Whites and Oil Exploration.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Brent Walker (5p) Int	0.35	0.25	11/2	—	1.01
Cray Electronics (10p)	0.5	0.5	12/4	—	1.3
Leyland Paint (25p) Fin	2.51	Nil	31/3	3.31	Nil
Louis Newmark (25p) Int	2.26	1.5	8/3	—	5.42
Spencer Clark (30p)	2.22	1.15	—	2.14	1.55
Thorn Electrical (25p)	2.22	2.02	4/3	—	5.58
Turner Mfg (25p) Fin	2.22	2.03	—	3.57	3.25
Vita-Tex	1.2	1.2	1/4	—	2.7

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54.

Lonrho buying nearly a fifth of Newman but no bid yet

Lonrho has agreed to buy 19.3 per cent of Newman Industries for £376,000, 13p above the market price of 37p yesterday. The bulk of the holding comes from TPG Investments, indirectly controlled by two Newman directors, Mr Alan Bartlett, chairman and chief executive and Mr J. Laughton. Mr Laughton has resigned from the board.

The stake was built up as a result of Newman's controversial takeover of Thomas Poole & Gladstone last year.

Lonrho says that it can offer "significant investment and marketing opportunities" for the engineering group through their worldwide trading operations.

Mr F. Butcher, who joins the Newman board along with Mr Roland Rowland and Mr R. Dunlop, says that there are "no present intentions to increase the stake. But he could 'give no promises' that Lonrho's intentions would not eventually change.

Newmark breathless

Topping expectations in 1975-76 with a best-ever pre-tax profit of £1.62m, Louis Newmark then passed for breath. In the first half year to October 2, 1976, it only edged ahead, and for the full year to April 3, 1977, the board only expects profits to match last year's.

The electronic and precision engineer reports pre-tax profit for the opening six months up from £734,000 to £753,000 and earnings a share from 11.37p to 11.67p. The interim dividend rises from 2.3p gross to 3.08p.

Vita-Tex blossoms

The six months to October 31 has brought more than doubled pre-tax profits of £197,000 to Vita-Tex, the warp knitted fabrics group. Turnover rose from £2.7m to £3.4m. Yet the dividend only 1.84p gross again. The board says that current trading is good. If there is no change in domestic spending the second half year should show a similar result to the first. This indicates a 25 per cent rise in yearly profits to £394,000.

Newall Machine

Returning to dividends last year, Newall Machine Tool has kept up the good work in the six months to September 30 last. After burgeoning from £109,000 to £278,000 in the whole of 1975-76, pre-tax profits in the latest half year sprang to £277,000 compared with £140,000. Sales were virtually unchanged at £3.8m against £3.7m. The board reports that outstanding orders should mean

plenty of work for the rest of the year to March 31 next. Results for the second six months should at least equal those now reported. If so, a total of at least £554,000 is likely. Newall's second best-ever profit, in 1972-73 it turned in a record £730,000. The group pays a single and final dividend. Last year this was 0.49p.

Last October shareholders were told of satisfactory arrangements with the DTI and the group's merchant bank for repayment of loans.

Spencer Clark slumps 65 pc

The board of Spencer Clark Metal Industries declares that long-term prospects are excellent. But pre-tax profits in the year to September 30 plunged 65 per cent to £13,000, though the dividend rises from 3p gross to 3.29p.

The 42 per cent fall in profits to £184,000 in the first half year was said to be in line with expectations. Lack of trade and higher costs were blamed, but a recovery was on the way. The record £748,000 made over the whole of 1974-75 would not be much worse than that. The second half brought in only £129,000, a drop of 70 per cent.

Tricentrol limit on foreign holders

Tricentrol has reduced to 10 per cent the maximum number of shares which can be held in it by foreigners or non-United Kingdom companies. The articles limit overseas shareholders to 20 per cent of the issued capital.

The group said that no registered transfers into the name of a foreigner or foreign corporation will be made for a bargain made after the close of business yesterday. Transfers of transactions made before then will be registered provided the 20 per cent foreign holding limit is not exceeded.

Brent Walker falls but upswing seen

After a leap in interest charges from £34,000 to £116,000, pre-tax profits of the Brent Walker leisure group fell from £211,000 to £74,000 in the half year to July 11. Profits included rents receivable of £23,000 against £14,000 and interest receivable of £6,000 against £17,000. Turnover improved from £1.98m to £2.4m. Mr L. A. Curtis, chairman, says that trading interests did well and despite continuing high interest rates, he expects profits for the whole of 1976

to have been about twice the £194,000 achieved a year earlier. However, an out-turn of £388,000 would still be one third down on the 1974 record profit of £580,000.

Leyland Paint sweeps to peak

It has not taken long for Leyland Paint & Wallpaper to show that 1974-75's plunge in pre-tax profits from £960,000 to £424,000 was just a hiccup.

Sweeping from £68,000 of pre-tax losses to £310,000 of profits in the six months to April 3, the group went on to make a record £1.39m in the year to October 2.

Sales climbed from £16.7m to £20.19m with home sales accounting for £17.1m and exports £3m. The directors under Mr Douglas Paybody who succeeded Mr Bryan Jones as chairman last May (Mr Jones, managing director, is now his deputy) point to better business in all divisions and benefits from recent capital spending. Business this year has started well. Even better, it shows "a continuation of the progress made in 1976". A final dividend of 2.51p makes 3.31p net or 5.1p gross for the year. This is the maximum.

Bid for Kimpber as Guinness takes 54 pc

Up jumped the shares in Kimpber, the advertising group, by 6p to 30p on an Arthur Guinness plan to bid. The black stout brewer has bought 32.6 per cent of Kimpber at 30p to bring its stake to 54 per cent—a bid for the rump is automatic.

The offer values Kimpber at £310,000 and proposals for the purchase of the loan stock will be made.

Guinness says that the "most amicable working relationship" between Kimpber and Needham, Harper and Steers, the United States advertising group, will remain unchanged.

J F Nash sells off stake in Fisher

The long-standing clash between Mr Alan Fisher, former chairman of Albert Fisher Group, and J. F. Nash Securities appears to be over. Nash has completed the sale of its holding of 1.16 million Fisher shares (about 19 per cent) for about £104,000 cash, equivalent to 9p a share. It no longer has any stake in Fisher.

The Fisher group states that District Bank (Blackpool) Nominees has bought the Nash holding.

TV rental, overseas energize Thorn

By Richard Allen

Overseas earnings and continued growth in colour television rental at home and abroad were behind Thorn Electrical Industries' 34 per cent pre-tax profits boost in the six months to September 30.

On external turnover, 25 per cent ahead at £491m, profits rose from £31.5m to £42.4m. These were after depreciation charges 20 per cent up at £41m and finance charges 25 per cent down to £3.2m.

The figures were exactly in line with market forecasts. So the shares which have improved by more than 50 cent since October eased 2p yesterday to 208p.

Mr Richard Cave chairman says that the consumer spending boom ahead of the mini-Budget in December got the second half-year off to a good start. The year's results are expected to show satisfactory growth.

The interim dividend goes by the maximum to 3.43p.

The group claims to have taken a conservative view of exchange gains and reports overseas business has shown real improvement.

The consumer electro business in Australia was particularly buoyant while colour TV rental in Europe made headway.

A reorganization in the South African associate bit sales and a provision has been made to cover Thorn's share of it. But this has been offset by exceptional gains of a six amount on sales of trade investments in the United Kingdom.

On the domestic front, lighting division boosted but trading in consumer electronics products was dull most of the period. Mr Cave was still suffering from inflation.

Turner M overtakes £2m and motors steadily

By Tony May

The "modest increase" forecast for Turner Manufacturing's pre-tax profits for the year to October 2 was better than that. They rose by nearly a fifth to £2.23m, the first time that £2m has been passed.

Turnover of this Wolverhampton-based commercial gearbox maker, which exports about 20 per cent of output, increased from £16.6m to £19.6m. This meant a small rise in margins from 11.2 per cent to 11.3 per cent. At half time, after a 7.5 per cent gain in profits to £925,000, Mr S. V. Lancaster, chairman emphasised that margins were under increasing pressure. But profits in the second six months were

scheduled to go up a bit, the event, the half year a 23 per cent rise to £1.3m.

Net profit advanced £905,000 to £1,050m and board raises the dividend 15p gross to 5.49p. Earn a share were 10.5 against last year's 10.3.

The results and forecast the shares unchanged at 122.25p, the first time that £2m has been passed. Now Mr Lancaster sees another year of "steady progress". The results and forecast the shares unchanged at 122.25p, the first time that £2m has been passed. Now Mr Lancaster sees another year of "steady progress". The results and forecast the shares unchanged at 122.25p, the first time that £2m has been passed. Now Mr Lancaster sees another year of "steady progress".

Choices for Poseidon

Whether the shareholders in Poseidon maintain an interest in its various projects will depend on the receiver/manager appointed by the Australian Industry Development Corporation, chairman Mr Eric Rudd, said in Adelaide.

He told the annual meeting that Poseidon's assets or its corporate structure itself, with the considerable tax losses available, should provide the receiver/manager, Mr Noel Buckley, or the AIDC with various alternatives in which shareholders could take part.

Mr Buckley had Poseidon's 7.7m 20 cent par shares removed from stock exchange lists on December 22 to save listing fees, though they had been

ponded since October 8 last. The chairman said mining companies have an interest in some or all Poseidon's ventures. Mr Buckley recently refused an offer for the company's 47 per cent stake in Kalgoolie Lake Property.

KLV holds 52 per cent Kalgoolie Mining Association of the Mount Charles gold mine at Kalgoolie, Western Australia. Though Mr Buckley is unable to secure cash to Poseidon, the per cent-owned Windarra Mine and the wholly-owned Burra Copper Mine are generating a cash flow for the group.



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Our shareholders may exercise their subscription rights in the period

FROM JANUARY 26 UP TO AND INCLUDING FEBRUARY 8, 1977

by submitting dividend coupon no. 32 of the old shares to our paying agents (Kleinwort, Benson Ltd., London; S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., London). The subscription price must be paid no later than February 8, 1977.

Application has been made for the registration for trading and official listing of the new shares at all German securities exchanges and at the stock exchanges of Amsterdam, Antwerp, Basel, Brussels, Geneva, Paris, Vienna and Zurich. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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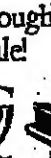
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